

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Anderson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO  
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE ON SOLDIERS AND  
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD TO RENEW EFFORTS TO  
LOCATE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED  
TO DEPLETED URANIUM.

WHEREAS, the United States armed forces and the armed  
forces of many nations use depleted uranium in various forms of  
ordnance and armor; and

WHEREAS, because of its ubiquitous use by the armed  
forces, many service members have been unknowingly exposed to  
depleted uranium; and

WHEREAS, the normal function of the body's vital organs,  
including the kidneys, brain, liver and heart, can be adversely  
affected by exposure to uranium; and

.188438.2

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, depleted uranium poses a particular risk of  
2 exposure because of its long half-life; and

3           WHEREAS, the aerosol produced during the impact and  
4 combustion of depleted uranium could contaminate wide areas  
5 around impact sites, resulting in exposure to troops who are in  
6 such an exposure zone; and

7           WHEREAS, there have been reports indicating that military  
8 personnel are at particular risk of inhaling uranium dust; and

9           WHEREAS, because of the nature of the dispersal of  
10 depleted uranium in combat situations, many soldiers may not  
11 realize that they have been exposed to depleted uranium, and  
12 thus are at risk of serious illness because of that exposure;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, certain studies have indicated that there may be  
15 an increased rate of birth defects among the children of  
16 military personnel who have been exposed to depleted uranium;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, studies have also documented the effects of  
19 depleted uranium on the health of household members of  
20 returning troops, as the depleted uranium can be transmitted  
21 through intimate contact or through contact with contaminated  
22 dust on the service member's belongings; and

23           WHEREAS, high concentrations of depleted uranium exposure  
24 could cause significant health issues among members of the  
25 armed forces, their loved ones and their families; and

.188438.2

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, it is estimated that over three hundred forty  
2 tons of depleted uranium munitions were used in the 1991  
3 Persian Gulf War, one to two thousand tons of depleted uranium  
4 munitions were used in the 2003 Gulf War and the nation's  
5 service members are still exposed to depleted uranium in  
6 Afghanistan and other conflicts;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university  
9 of New Mexico school of medicine be requested to study what  
10 physiological effects there might be on service members who  
11 have been exposed to depleted uranium while serving their  
12 country, including requiring university medical staff to  
13 collect data on the numbers of patients with cases related to  
14 depleted uranium exposure; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
16 school of health be requested to include the diagnosis of  
17 illnesses related to depleted uranium exposure as a part of  
18 their curriculum training; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico national guard  
20 be requested to renew its efforts to locate military personnel  
21 who have been exposed to depleted uranium; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to office of the dean of the university of New  
24 Mexico school of medicine and the adjutant general of the New  
25 Mexico national guard.

.188438.2