



Fort McClellan Health Registry Act

117th Congress

Sponsor: Congressman Paul D. Tonko (D-NY)

"We owe it to our veterans to ensure they are never denied the care they need for their years of selfless service to our nation."

❖ Paul Tonko

Fort McClellan was primed for toxic exposure

- Fort McClellan, located in Anniston, Alabama, was home to the Chemical Corps as well as the Women's Army Corps and Military Police School until the base's closure in 1999
- For years the base served as the U.S. military's main chemical and biological training center
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes toxic substances were present at the fort:
 - **Radioactive compounds** (cesium-137 and cobalt-60) used in decontamination training
 - **Chemical warfare agents** (mustard gas and nerve agents) used in decontamination testing
 - **Airborne polychlorinated biphenyls** (PCBs) from a nearby Monsanto chemical plant

Veterans stationed there have chronic illnesses

- Many **veterans who served at Fort McClellan face dangerous and even deadly health complications**, often with little or no alternate explanation (see: [CNN](#), [Fox News Health](#), [Washington Times](#) and [others](#))
- In 2003, residents of Anniston, AL were awarded a \$700 million settlement from Monsanto
- The VA acknowledges veterans may have been exposed to toxic substances including radioactive compounds, chemical warfare agents and airborne PCBs while stationed at Fort McClellan
- **HOWEVER the VA has declined to grant a presumption of service-connected disability based on that service** for long-term and otherwise unexplained severe health complications later in life

Congress Must Stand Up for These Veterans!

The Fort McClellan Health Registry Act directs the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to set up a health registry for veterans who served at Fort McClellan between 1935 and 1999 and include information on registrants' health status

The bill also:

- Requires the VA to provide the option of a health examination and consultation to any veteran who was stationed at Fort McClellan; and
- Requires the VA to do appropriate outreach to veterans listed in the registry about their options, new research, and the consequences of toxic substance exposure

We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the pain of these or any of our veterans. This legislation lets our heroes know that they are not forgotten.

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko