

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 207

To provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mr. SERRANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Depleted Uranium

5       Screening and Testing Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. DEPLETED URANIUM RISK NOTIFICATION FOR DE-**  
2                   **PLOYING FORCES.**

3               (a) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
4 establish procedures to require, as part of the procedures  
5 for preparing members of the Armed Forces for deploy-  
6 ment to a theater of operations, that such members be  
7 notified of—

8                   (1) any known or likely use of depleted uranium  
9               in that theater of operations (whether by forces of  
10               the United States and its allies or by any opposing  
11               forces); and

12               (2) any health risks associated with exposure to  
13               depleted uranium.

14               (b) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall provide for  
15 training deploying members of the Armed Forces on the  
16 safe handling of depleted uranium contamination before  
17 such members are deployed to a theater in which depleted  
18 uranium is used.

19   **SEC. 3. DEPLETED URANIUM SCREENING AND TESTING.**

20               (a) IDENTIFICATION AND TESTING REQUIRED.—The  
21 Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program to identify  
22 individuals who, during active service in the Armed  
23 Forces, are or have been exposed to depleted uranium and  
24 to provide those individuals with bioassay testing and noti-  
25 fication of the results of such testing.

## 1 (b) DEPLETED URANIUM-EXPOSED PERSONNEL

## 2 IDENTIFICATION METHODS.—

3 (1) PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF EX-  
4 POSED MEMBERS.—The Secretary of each military  
5 department shall establish procedures to identify  
6 members of the Armed Forces under the Secretary's  
7 jurisdiction who are, or may have been, exposed to  
8 depleted uranium. For such purpose, the Secretary  
9 shall identify units and members under paragraph  
10 (2) and shall accept self-identification reports by  
11 members under paragraph (3).

12 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF UNITS AND PER-  
13 SONNEL.—The Secretary of each military depart-  
14 ment shall identify units, and personnel assigned to  
15 units, that have been, or could have been, exposed  
16 to depleted uranium, based upon information about  
17 known exposure events (as determined under sub-  
18 section (c)).

19 (3) SELF REPORTING.—The Secretary of each  
20 military department shall accept a report by an indi-  
21 vidual, or a primary care provider for an individual,  
22 that the individual, while a member of the Armed  
23 Forces under the Secretary's jurisdiction, was, or  
24 may have been, exposed to depleted uranium based  
25 upon service on active duty (or training duty or fu-

1       neral honors duty) in a theater of operations where  
2       depleted uranium was used, including travel through  
3       such an area. The Secretary shall prescribe proce-  
4       dures for receiving such reports. Such a self-identi-  
5       fication report submitted to the Secretary under this  
6       paragraph shall be treated by the Secretary as iden-  
7       tification of the individual for purposes of this sub-  
8       section.

9                   (4) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS NO LONGER  
10       ON ACTIVE DUTY.—In carrying out this subsection,  
11       the Secretary of each military department shall en-  
12       sure that individuals no longer on active duty (in-  
13       cluding members of the reserve components who  
14       have been released from active duty, members who  
15       have been retired, and members who have been sepa-  
16       rated from service) are treated, for identification  
17       purposes, in the same manner as individuals remain-  
18       ing on active duty.

19                   (c) EXPOSURE EVENTS.—

20                   (1) TYPES OF EVENTS.—The Secretary of De-  
21       fense shall identify depleted uranium exposure  
22       events for purposes of this section. The exposure  
23       events identified shall include the following:

24                   (A) DIRECT EXPOSURES.—An event in  
25       which an individual—

1 (i) is struck by depleted uranium mu-  
2 nitions or depleted uranium armor frag-  
3 ments;

4 (ii) enters, or is present within 50 me-  
5 ters of, a vehicle or structure with possible  
6 depleted uranium residues; or

7 (iii) breathes smoke from fires involv-  
8 ing depleted uranium materials.

9 (B) EQUIPMENT HANDLING EXPOSURES.—

10 An event in which an individual may inhale de-  
11 pleted uranium compound particulates as a re-  
12 sult of the handling of equipment or wreckage  
13 that has been, or could have been, contaminated  
14 with depleted uranium.

15 (C) OTHER EXPOSURES.—Other signifi-  
16 cant or incidental exposure events identified by  
17 the Secretary, including the performance of ac-  
18 tivities in the area of depleted uranium dam-  
19 aged vehicles or structures or the traveling  
20 through or residing in any such area.

1 may be considered for purposes of this section, if re-  
2 ported during the 60-day period beginning on the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act.

4 (d) HEALTH-CARE SERVICES REQUIRED.—

5 (1) BIOASSAY PROCEDURE.—Any individual  
6 identified under subsection (b) shall be provided a  
7 health screening test by the Secretary of Defense.  
8 Such test shall be carried out using a bioassay pro-  
9 cedure developed by the Secretary of Defense in con-  
10 sultation with the Centers for Disease Control and  
11 Prevention. The same bioassay procedure shall be  
12 used for all individuals identified under subsection  
13 (b) and for all types of exposure or possible exposure  
14 identified under subsection (c).

15 (2) TIME FOR TEST.—

16 (A) EXPOSURES AFTER ENACTMENT.—In  
17 the case of an exposure event described in sub-  
18 section (c) that occurs on or after the date of  
19 the enactment of this Act, the bioassay under  
20 paragraph (1) shall be administered not later  
21 than 180 days after the date of the event, ex-  
22 cept that in the case of an individual with an  
23 exposure event described in subsection (c)(3),  
24 the bioassay under paragraph (1) shall be ad-  
25 ministered not later than 30 days after the end

1           of the individual's deployment in the theater of  
2           operations, but such individual may be provided  
3           the bioassay earlier upon the individual's re-  
4           quest.

5           (B) EXPOSURES BEFORE ENACTMENT.—In  
6           the case of an exposure event described in sub-  
7           section (c) that occurs before the date of the  
8           enactment of this Act, the bioassay under para-  
9           graph (1) shall be administered not later than  
10          180 days after the date of the reporting of the  
11          event under subsection (c)(2).

12          (3) FURNISHING OF RESULTS.—The Secretary  
13          of Defense shall provide the results of any bioassay  
14          procedure under this subsection to the individual  
15          tested, and the primary care manager or primary  
16          care provider of that individual, not later than 30  
17          days after the Secretary receives those results.

18          (e) PERSONNEL TRACKING.—The Secretary of each  
19          military department shall establish procedures for col-  
20          lecting, tracking, and maintaining information on the  
21          health status of individuals tested under subsection (d) for  
22          the purpose of assessing any long-term health con-  
23          sequences of exposure to depleted uranium.

24          (f) INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF BIOASSAY TYPES AND  
25          CONTAMINATION THRESHOLDS.—The Director of the

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall conduct  
2 an independent review of bioassay types and contamina-  
3 tion thresholds for purposes of the testing under sub-  
4 section (d).

5 (g) TREATMENT.—Based on the results of the bio-  
6 assay tests, the Secretary of the military department con-  
7 cerned shall provide appropriate treatment for any illness  
8 of an individual resulting from a depleted uranium con-  
9 tamination or exposure.

10 **SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL SURVEY AND REPORT ON**  
11 **RADIOISOTOPE IDENTIFICATION EQUIPMENT**  
12 **USED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

13 (a) SURVEY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct  
14 a survey of radioisotope identification equipment used by  
15 the Department of Defense in order to assess the capa-  
16 bility of Department of Defense facilities to identify con-  
17 centrations of different radioisotopes in naturally occur-  
18 ring levels of uranium.

19 (b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit  
20 to Congress a report on the results of the survey under  
21 subsection (a) not later than 180 days after the date of  
22 the enactment of this Act.

