

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4429

To direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study regarding toxic exposure by members of the Armed Forces deployed to Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, to include such members in the open burn pit registry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study regarding toxic exposure by members of the Armed Forces deployed to Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, to include such members in the open burn pit registry, 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 “K2 Veterans Toxic
5 Exposure Accountability Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON TOXIC EXPOSURE AT KARSHI KHANABAD**
2 **AIR BASE, UZBEKISTAN.**

3 (a) STUDY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
5 shall conduct a study on toxic exposure by members
6 of the Armed Forces deployed to Karshi Khanabad
7 Air Base, Uzbekistan, at any time during the period
8 beginning October 1, 2001, and ending December
9 31, 2005.

10 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study under
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) An assessment regarding the condi-
13 tions of Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbek-
14 istan, during the period beginning October 1,
15 2001, and ending December 31, 2005, includ-
16 ing an identification of toxic substances con-
17 taminating the Air Base during such period.

18 (B) An epidemiological study of the health
19 consequences of a member of the Armed Forces
20 deployed to the Air Base during such period.

21 (C) An assessment of any association be-
22 tween exposure to toxic substances identified
23 under subparagraph (A) and the health con-
24 sequences studied under subparagraph (B).

25 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
26 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense

1 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
2 fairs, submit to Congress a report containing—

3 (1) the study under subsection (a); and

4 (2) a description of—

5 (A) the benefits administered by the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs that a veteran may
7 be eligible to receive by reason of being exposed
8 to toxic substances at Karshi Khanabad Air
9 Base, Uzbekistan, while serving in the Armed
10 Forces; and

11 (B) the outreach conducted by the Sec-
12 retary to inform such veterans of such benefits.

13 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF UZBEKISTAN IN CERTAIN REG-**
14 **ISTRIES AND PROGRAMS.**

15 (a) OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY.—Section 201(c)(2)
16 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Im-
17 provement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C.
18 527 note) is amended by striking “Afghanistan or Iraq”
19 and inserting “Afghanistan, Iraq, or Uzbekistan”.

20 (b) DEPLETED URANIUM FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMS.—
21 The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs shall ensure that any individual who deployed as
23 a member of the Armed Forces to Karshi Khanabad Air
24 Base, Uzbekistan, at any time during the period beginning
25 October 1, 2001, and ending December 31, 2005, is cov-

1 ered by the Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Programs of the
2 Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans
3 Affairs.

4 **SEC. 4. ACCESS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF**
5 **SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE TO**
6 **INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
8 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the National
10 Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this
11 section referred to as the “Academies”), the Secretary of
12 Defense shall provide to the Academies such information
13 in the possession of the Department of Defense and the
14 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to the Acad-
15 emies such information in the possession of the Depart-
16 ment of Veterans Affairs as the Academies determine use-
17 ful in performing a covered study. Such information in-
18 cludes, at a minimum, all environmental sampling data
19 relative to any location included in the study.

20 (b) COVERED STUDY DEFINED.—In this section, the
21 term “covered study” includes—

- 22 (1) the study conducted under section 2; and
- 23 (2) any subsequent study or any study con-
24 ducted by the Academies regarding the effects of ex-
25 posure of humans to toxic substances at Karshi

- 1 Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, at any time during
- 2 the period beginning October 1, 2001, and ending
- 3 December 31, 2005.

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