

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
FOR H.R. 4435  
OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK**

Page 53, after line 9, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 318. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN PREVENTION, DIAG-**  
2 **NOSIS, MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHA-**  
3 **BILITATION OF HEALTH CONDITIONS RELAT-**  
4 **ING TO EXPOSURE TO OPEN BURN PITS AND**  
5 **OTHER EXPOSURE TO OPEN BURN PITS AND**  
6 **OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense  
8 shall establish within the Department of Defense three  
9 centers of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitiga-  
10 tion, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions re-  
11 lating to exposure to open burn pits and other environ-  
12 mental exposures to carry out the responsibilities specified  
13 in subsection (c). Such centers shall be established  
14 using—

15 (1) the directives, policies, and Comptroller  
16 General and Inspector General recommendations in  
17 effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act;  
18 and

1           (2) guidance issued pursuant to section 313 of  
2           the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
3           Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1692;  
4           10 U.S.C. 1074 note).

5           (b) SELECTION OF SITES.—In selecting sites for the  
6           centers of excellence under subsection (a), the Secretary  
7           of Defense shall select entities that—

8           (1) are equipped with the specialized equipment  
9           needed to study, diagnose, and treat health condi-  
10          tions relating to exposure to open burn pits and  
11          other environmental exposures;

12          (2) have a publication track record of post-de-  
13          ployment health exposures among veterans from  
14          Iraq and Afghanistan;

15          (3) have collaborated with a geosciences depart-  
16          ment that has a medical geology division;

17          (4) have developed animal models and in vitro  
18          models of dust immunology and lung injury from  
19          Iraq and Afghanistan; and

20          (5) have expertise in allergy and immunology,  
21          pulmonary diseases, and industrial and management  
22          engineering.

23          (c) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
24          the centers collaborate to the maximum extent practicable  
25          with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, institutions of

1 higher education, and other appropriate public and private  
2 entities (including international entities) to carry out the  
3 responsibilities specified in subsection (d).

4 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The center shall have re-  
5 sponsibilities as follows:

6 (1) To implement the comprehensive plan and  
7 strategy for the Department of Defense for the pre-  
8 vention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and reha-  
9 bilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to  
10 open burn pits and other environmental exposures.

11 (2) To provide for the development, testing, and  
12 dissemination within the Department of best prac-  
13 tices for the treatment of health conditions relating  
14 to exposure to open burn pits and other environ-  
15 mental exposures.

16 (3) To provide guidance for the health system  
17 of the Department in determining the personnel re-  
18 quired to provide quality health care for members of  
19 the Armed Forces with health conditions relating to  
20 exposure to open burn pits and other environmental  
21 exposures.

22 (4) To establish, implement, and oversee a com-  
23 prehensive program to train health professionals of  
24 the Department in the treatment of health condi-

1 tions relating to exposure to open burn pits and  
2 other environmental exposures.

3 (5) To facilitate advancements in the study of  
4 the short-term and long-term effects of exposure to  
5 open burn pits and other environmental exposures.

6 (6) To disseminate within the military medical  
7 treatment facilities of the Department best practices  
8 for training health professionals with respect to  
9 health conditions relating to exposure to open burn  
10 pits and other environmental exposures.

11 (7) To conduct basic science and translational  
12 research on health conditions relating to exposure to  
13 open burn pits and other environmental exposures  
14 for the purposes of understanding the etiology of  
15 such conditions and developing preventive interven-  
16 tions and new treatments.

17 (8) To provide medical treatment to all veterans  
18 identified as part of the burn pits registry estab-  
19 lished under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and  
20 Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012  
21 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

22 (e) USE OF BURN PITS REGISTRY DATA.—In car-  
23 rying out its responsibilities under subsection (c), the cen-  
24 ter shall have access to and make use of the data accumu-  
25 lated by the burn pits registry established under section

1 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits  
2 Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38  
3 U.S.C. 527 note).

4 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “open burn pit” means an area  
6 of land located in Afghanistan or Iraq that—

7 (A) is designated by the Secretary of De-  
8 fense to be used for disposing solid waste by  
9 burning in the outdoor air; and

10 (B) does not contain a commercially manu-  
11 factured incinerator or other equipment specifi-  
12 cally designed and manufactured for the burn-  
13 ing of solid waste.

14 (2) The term “other environmental exposures”  
15 means exposure to environmental hazards, including  
16 burn pits, dust or sand, hazardous materials, and  
17 waste at any site in Afghanistan or Iraq that emits  
18 smoke containing pollutants present in the environ-  
19 ment or smoke from fires or explosions.

20 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
22 \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2015.

Page 481, line 8, strike “\$64,040,000,000” and in-  
sert “\$64,010,000,000”.

