

**NINETY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Charlotte, North Carolina
August 26, 27, 28, 2014**

Resolution No. 30: Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense

Origin: Montana

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Project SHAD, an acronym for Shipboard Hazard and Defense, was part of a larger effort called Project 112, was allegedly conducted during 1962 and 1973; and

WHEREAS, The project started under John F. Kennedy's administration, and was authorized by his Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, as part of a total review of the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, The exact number of participants is unknown but it is estimated that more than 6,000 military personnel, mostly Navy and Marine personnel, participated in a series of tests of U.S. warship vulnerability to biological and chemical warfare agents without their knowledge; and

WHEREAS, In September 2002, the Institute of Medicine agreed to undertake a scientific study, funded by the VA, of potential long-term health effects of participation in Project SHAD; and

WHEREAS, Participants also reported statistically significantly worse health than controls; and

WHEREAS, Comparing all Project SHAD participants versus all controls, heart disease deaths showed a statistically significant increase; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs manual states "Veterans Affairs Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected"; and

WHEREAS, Participants in project SHAD have been diagnosed and treated by the department of Veterans Affairs without any monetary compensation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That the Department of Veterans Affairs accept the illnesses caused by involvement in PROJECT SHAD be classified as service connected and provide just compensation to those veterans for their disabilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion national organization, on behalf of military personnel involved in any way with PROJECT SHAD, demand the Department of Veterans Affairs accept the fact that these members of the armed forces were unwittingly exposed to life threatening chemical and/or biological agents while in active military service and are suffering or have suffered now and prior to their death from exposure to these agents, be listed as presumptive causes of their illnesses or death.