

## Office of U.S. Senator Mark Begich Alaska :: April 2011

Official website :: http://begich.senate.gov

## Agent Orange – Our Lasting Responsibility

## Agent Orange and Vietnam Veterans

Senator Begich believes that our society has a unique commitment to provide for the health of its veterans given the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our country. He is especially concerned about veterans who may have been exposed in their service to noxious health hazard with lasting consequences like Agent Orange.

## **Expanding Coverage to Afflicted Veterans**

Senator Begich cosponsored legislation that would expand priority status medical coverage to veterans who have served in the waterways within, the coasts around and the airspace above Vietnam and have illnesses with proven links to Agent Orange. Under current law, veterans who served in these areas may be denied coverage for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure.

"Vietnam Vets were shortchanged for too long. They fought honorably for our country and should not have to prove their illness is due to exposure to Agent Orange" – Senator Begich 9/22/2010

Senator Begich met with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to voice his support for continued research by the Department of Veterans' Affairs into the illnesses that come about due to exposure to Agent Orange.



