There is currently a threat to the health of thousands of military personnel and their families in military installations.

We interviewed IICRC Board Director and Executive Committee member, Robert Pettyjohn, who recently took this matter to Capitol Hill to bring attention to this mold crisis and the health problems associated with it.

Can you tell us about what is happening in military installations around the country?

RP: There are a lot of people who are getting sick from their own homes. Many of these structures were not built according to code and as a result it’s allowing water to intrude. Moreover, mold remediation services performed in these homes are often not being followed according to the ANSI/IICRC S520 Standard for Mold Remediation.

How did you first get involved?

RP: I was contacted by a friend of my wife and told about a family in Fort Bragg, N.C. A woman and her children experienced severe neurological and health issues causing them to have to leave their home in North Carolina and return to their home out west. Their situation was so desperate, her husband had to be called in from deployment to assist in the move.

As a father and grandfather, I imagine my children being in the same position these families are facing. That’s why I feel passionate about making sure that this situation is addressed and people are getting the help they need. It’s not only causing health issues for them but it’s also affecting soldiers overseas who are defending our country.

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We’d like to thank Mr. Pettyjohn for his time and the work he is doing to help families to ensure they are living in a clean, dry environment.

There are five facets to this perplexing issue which almost every military family faces:

1. Be Aware:
   Many of these structures were not built according to code and as a result it’s allowing water to intrude. Moreover, mold remediation services performed in these homes are often not being followed according to the ANSI/IICRC S520 Standard for Mold Remediation.

2. Seek Medical Attention:
   Many of these families have been unable to find a doctor who is knowledgeable about mold.

3. Change of Environment:
   Many of these military children are attending those schools.

4. Seek Legal Help:
   Unfortunately, many families are forced to move into a new home and vice versa.

5. Apply Public Pressure:
   It’s allowing water to intrude. Moreover, mold remediation services performed in these homes are often not being followed according to the ANSI/IICRC S520 Standard for Mold Remediation.

What is the importance of bringing attention to this crisis?

RP: We’re putting public pressure on elected officials to let them know what’s going on. Not only to senators and representatives, but also to local school boards. Water damage is happening in schools, and some of these military children are attending those schools.

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