



Air Force Global Strike Command

Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS) Town Hall



**Gen Thomas Bussiere
AFGSC/CC
November 2023**

Overall Classification: UNCLASSIFIED



Actions

Guardian/former Missileer diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL) discovered colleagues with cancer & started important dialog: *do Missileers have increased cancer risk?*

Cancer concerns in Missileers
Dec 2022

AFGSC/CC directs study through USAFSAM
Feb 2023

Site Visits & Town Halls at Missile Wings, Space Delta
Mar-May 2023

Round 1 Environmental sampling
Jun-Jul 2023

PCBs identified & Mitigation efforts completed
Aug-Nov 2023

Round 2 Environmental sampling
Oct-Nov 2023

Round 3 Environmental sampling
Spring 2024

Epidemiology Review complete
Jun 2024

Current progress

Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS)



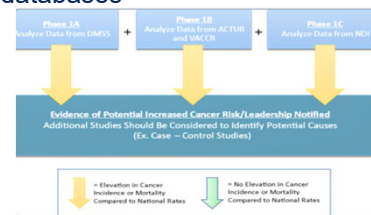
Executed by US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM)

Epidemiology Review

Compare cancer cases in the general population to missile-related career fields using large government and civilian databases

Environmental Sampling

Collect 3 seasonal rounds to assess for any chemicals, contaminants, or hazards



Safety of Airmen prioritized at all stages

- Immediately instituted changes after site visits
 - Burning activities ceased, hazard signs updated, deep cleans & living space upgrades scheduled
- Missile Alert Facilities with identified PCBs over EPA recommendation closed until successfully cleaned

Transparent engagement with stakeholders and leaders

- Public website created with frequent updates
- Multiple Town Halls for direct communication to field
- Education/resources for medical care teams
- Early consultation with partners
 - Defense Health Agency (DHA)
 - Space Force
 - Veterans' Administration (VA)
 - National Cancer Institute
 - Veterans Service Organizations

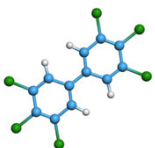




Round 1 Results

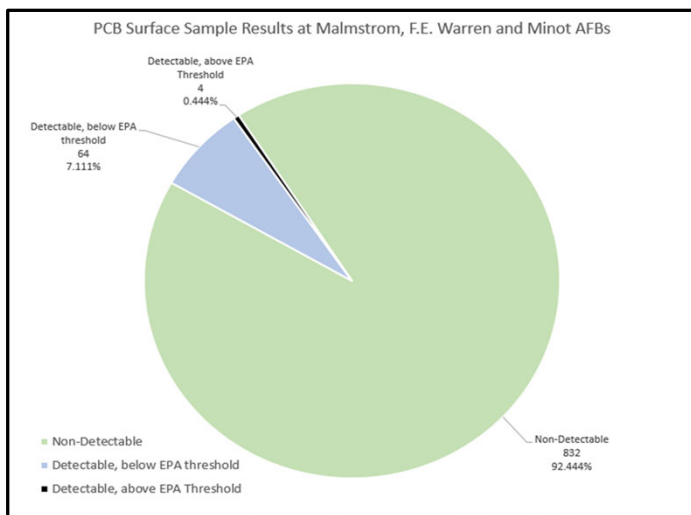
■ Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) detected at Malmstrom & Minot

- 3 MAFs (4 surface samples) over $10 \mu\text{g}/100 \text{ cm}^2$, a stringent EPA standard applicable in similar settings



- Cleaning protocol developed w/ AFGSC/A4; SPO; 20 AF; USAFSAM
- Closed until PCBs below $10 \mu\text{g}/100 \text{ cm}^2$
- Deep cleaning of all MAFs to follow

■ New Sentinel ICBM system will not contain PCB components



■ Environmental Sampling: 3 seasonal rounds

- All 45 MAFs tested during Round 1 in summer 2023
- Radon levels below intervention threshold for all 3 bases
- All air, water, & soil samples negative for any chemicals or hazards at Malmstrom & FE Warren; Minot expected by 30 Nov
- Round 2 Environmental Sampling on-going; results Dec-Jan
- Strategies in development for Vandenberg & targeted LFs



MCCS Next Steps

| Core AFSCs Working in MAFs | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1D7 | Cyber Defense Operations |
| 2M0 | Missile & Space Systems Maintenance/Facilities |
| 2W2 | Nuclear Weapons |
| 3F1 | Services |
| 3P0 | Security Forces |
| 8S0 | Missile Facility Manager |
| 21M | Munitions/Missile Maintenance Officer |
| 13N | Missileer |
| 13S | Space & Missile Operations |
| 31P | Security Forces Officer |

- **Current Active-Duty Service Members have annual occupational health requirements**
 - 2.2K current/former missileers + 6K in missile-related career fields
 - As they are identified, hazard exposures will flow into their electronic health records in 2024 per DHA
- **Website for public information/questions:**
[Missile Community Cancer Study \(af.mil\)](https://af.mil)



ASK A QUESTION

Use the QR code to submit

- **Veterans with previous missile-related service**
 - VA will assess outcome from entire MCCS (Epidemiology Review & Environmental Sampling) to determine if certain health conditions are linked to exposures during service
 - **VA website for inquiries:**
[Missile Community - Public Health \(va.gov\)](https://va.gov)

