



# ***Air Force Global Strike Command***

## **Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS) Update**



**Gen Thomas Bussiere  
AFGSC/CC  
May 2024**

Overall Classification: **CUI**



# MCCS Ongoing Efforts

**December 2022**

**Cancer concerns from Missileers**

A missileer documents cases of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and other cancers in missileers.



**February 2023**

**AFGSC/CC Directs Study via USAFSAM**

Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) initiates the Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS) to assess potential risk factors and cancer prevalence in missile-related career fields.



**March - May 2023**

**Site Visits & Town Halls**

AFGSC and USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) design a 2-track study - environmental and epidemiological - based off missile alert facility (MAF) site visits and missile community member feedback.



**June - July 2023**

**Round 1 Environmental Sampling**

USAFSAM completes the 1st of 3 rounds of environmental sampling, testing for known hazardous materials at every active MAF within AFGSC; begins combing databases for epidemiological trends.



**Aug - Oct 2023**

**PCBs Identified & Mitigation Efforts Completed**

Results from round 1 of sampling identify Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) levels above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards at 4 sites. These sites are immediately closed until cleaning and mitigation efforts are complete.



**Oct - Nov 2023**

**Round 2 Environmental Sampling**

USAFSAM completes the 2nd of 3 rounds of environmental sampling and begins the analysis of electronic medical data from 2001-2021 for Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) which work in/around MAFs.



**Feb - April 2024**

**Round 3 Environmental Sampling**

The final round of environmental sampling is projected to be completed, as will an epidemiological review of cancer registries for the DoD (1986-2021) and the Dept. of Veteran Affairs (1976-2021).



**Summer 2024**

**Epidemiology Review Complete**

The epidemiological study is projected to be completed, reviewing the National Death Index Data (1979-2021) and other cancer registries.



■ **Ensure safe working conditions in missile fields**

- All areas with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) over EPA threshold mitigated to prevent exposure
- TOs & CE Manuals updated for PCB response
- Occupational health tracking standardization processing across MWs
- Environmental upgrades & deep cleaning contracts for LCCs in progress
- Start LF PCB sampling in late summer

■ **Round 3 Environmental Sampling underway – over 2400 samples taken at each base (air, water, soil, radon)**

■ **Continue Epidemiology Review – Phase 1B data set analysis/publication**

■ **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Monthly VA Coordination; Military Environmental Exposure Sub-Council – update in June
- White House/PACT Act Discussions – next due in June



# Way Forward

## ■ Ensure appropriate hazard documentation for all missile-related personnel

### ■ Missile-related career fields in DOEHRS

- Most missile field jobs already included, e.g. Maintenance, Facility Mgrs, Security Forces
- Missileers not previously tracked; now updated
- MCCS results (incl PCBs) loaded in DOEHRS

### ■ ILER compiles data through career & after

- Visible to DoD & VA medical personnel; individuals projected to have access in 2025
- Collects occupational & environmental health info from multiple sources, including DOEHRS

- Hazards listed by location, but not linked to individuals for CONUS; DHA working to connect data sets

## ■ Provide means for hazard documentation to complement ILER improvements

- “Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at Missile Wings” memo

## ■ Website for public information/questions: [Missile Community Cancer Study \(af.mil\)](https://af.mil)

Current Service in missile field

- Tracked in DOEHRS → ILER in 2025
- PCBs at MWs Memo

Prior missile service, still Active Duty

- History in DOEHRS → may flow to ILER with future updates
- PCBs at MWs Memo

Separated or Retired

- Separation Health Physical Exam (SHPE)
- PCBs at MWs Memo



ASK A QUESTION

Use the QR code to submit