



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

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## **Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS) Town Hall**



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

Overall Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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# 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

Current progress

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

## Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS)



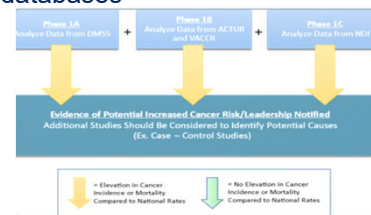
Executed by US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM)

### 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

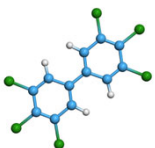




# Round 1 Results

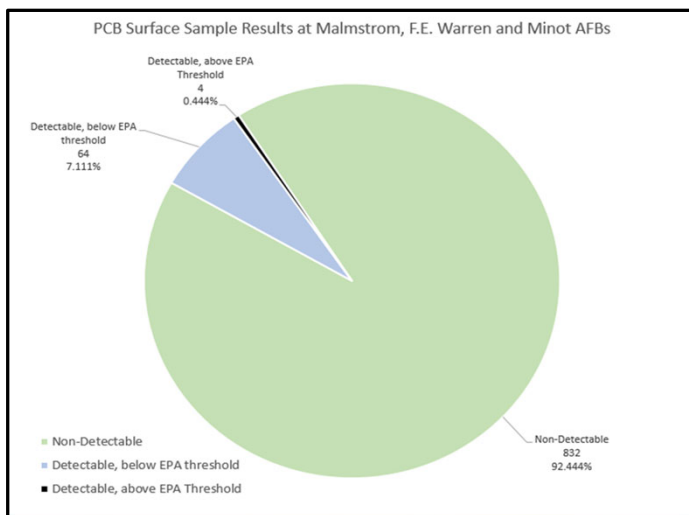
## ■ Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) detected at Malmstrom & Minot

- 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)

