



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
COMBINED JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE (CJIATF)-435  
TASK FORCE PEACEKEEPER  
BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09354-9998

15 April 2011

CJIATF-435-TFPK-MED

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Air Quality Summary on Bagram Air Field (BAF)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the results of air samples taken here on BAF, which includes Camp Sabalu-Harrison, and the potential long term effects that the air quality here may have on Service Members. Results of air samples taken over approximately the last eight years indicate that there may be an increased risk of long term adverse health conditions as a result of the poor air quality here on BAF.
2. Preventive Medicine (PM) teams take weekly air samples of Particulate Matter 10 and 2.5 micrometers in size (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). U.S. Army Public Health Command analyzes the air samples and summarizes them in the *Periodic Occupational Exposure Monitoring Summary* (POEMS). The draft POEMS for Bagram Air Field (BAF), Afghanistan covers the 2002-2010 time period. According to the draft POEMS, the average air quality for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 302  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and 110  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively. The National Ambient Air Quality Standard set by the Federal Government for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively. The Air Quality Index associated with the levels summarized for the average concentration here on BAF during the time period in the draft POEMS for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 174 and 177 respectively. Per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, air quality indexes in the range of 151-200 are considered "Unhealthy".
3. The primary contributor to the elevated PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> was a burn pit which services the trash generated on BAF with a population of up to 40,000 Service Members and contractors. Throughout the deployment the burn pit smoke plume drifted over the LSA exposing Service Members to increased air contaminants.
4. The long term health risk associated with air conditions on BAF from PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> indicates there is a potential that long-term exposure at these levels may increase the risk for developing chronic health conditions such as reduced lung function or exacerbated chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, atherosclerosis, or other cardiopulmonary diseases. This does not mean that service members that served on BAF will acquire adverse long term pulmonary or heart conditions but that the risk for such is increased.
5. If service members feel they have developed adverse health conditions due to something they were exposed to during their deployment, they should seek medical advice from the Veteran's Administration health care facilities in their local area. The medical providers at these facilities will have access to the data compiled by Public Health Command and will be able to make a determination if the adverse health condition that the service member is concerned about is a result of the exposure they received during their time on BAF.
6. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned and can be reached at 318-481-9063 or [gerold.m.pratt@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:gerold.m.pratt@afghan.swa.army.mil) or [mike.pratt@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.pratt@us.army.mil).

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