INDOOR AIR MONITORING – CHECKING FOR RADON

The United States Navy is committed to protecting the health of their Sailors, civilian staff, and their families by testing for the presence of indoor radon. Indoor radon is monitored throughout NSA Souda Bay following Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for sampling and analyzing radon.

WHAT IS NSA SOUDA BAY DOING?

- Following U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Navy and Department of Energy guidelines, NSA Souda Bay installed indoor radon monitoring devices in order to identify if there is a radon risk within our facilities.
- Locations with radon found to be above EPA action levels will be mitigated to reduce radon levels. After mitigation is complete, the locations will be re-tested to verify that mitigation measures were effective in reducing radon to below EPA action levels.

WHAT IS RADON?

- Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the radioactive decay of naturally occurring uranium and thorium in the soil and rock. Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above.
- Outdoors, radon is relatively harmless. Radon can be trapped indoor where it can build up over time.
- Basements and rooms on the ground floor will typically have the highest levels of trapped indoor radon.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS OF RADON EXPOSURE?

- Every day we are exposed to radon gas in the air we breathe. As radon decays, radioactive particles are released that can damage lung tissue.
- Many years of high-level exposure can lead to an increased risk of lung cancer.

HOW DOES RADON GET INTO A FACILITY?

- Radon enters a facility from the soil below it via simple diffusion through building materials, cracks and structural openings.
- In rare cases radon can also come from water and building materials. No radon has been detected in the water at NSA Souda Bay.

HOW MUCH RADON IS TOO MUCH?

- EPA has developed action levels of 4-20 pico Curies/Liter (pCi/L) requiring mitigation within 2 years; and 20-200 pCi/L requiring mitigation within 6 months.

WHAT IS MITIGATION?

- Mitigation is actions taken to reduce the levels of radon in a space. Spaces can be easily mitigated by proper ventilation or sealing cracks and potential pathways preventing radon gas from entering a space.
- Once mitigation of a space is complete it will be retested to ensure radon levels are below EPA threshold.

WHY DID YOU DO A ONE WEEK TEST AND WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

- Immediately upon receipt of the results, ventilation in Building 1 was improved and a one week test conducted to determine if this reduced radon levels.
- The short term test showed that all rooms in B1 are below 20 pCi/L. Any over 4 pCi/L will be mitigated within 2 years.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Radon sample results are posted on the NSA Souda Bay website at:
http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nsa_souda_bay/om/environmental_support/indoor_air_monitoring.html

For additional radon information you can call the NSA Souda Bay Environmental office at DSN 266-1207 or commercial +30 28210 21207.

- Other information sources about Radon can be found at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website: www.epa.gov/radon; or at the World Health Organization website: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241547673_eng.pdf