

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

Public Health Review – Camp Justice  
Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

*The FAQs in this document are specifically focused on questions associated with the ongoing public health review (PHR) that is being conducted at Camp Justice, a tenant command at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Questions and answers will be updated periodically as new information for the PHR becomes available. For questions about this product or other information associated with the PHR, please contact Naval Station Guantanamo Bay public affairs.*

### **Q1: WHAT is a public health review (PHR)?**

A1: A PHR is a study conducted by epidemiologists, human health risk assessors, occupational and environmental physicians, environmental health specialists, industrial hygienists and other health experts who review medical and historical records. Environmental sampling results are also reviewed and a human health risk assessment is conducted to determine if there are any potential health risks.

### **Q2: WHY is the Navy conducting a PHR?**

A2: The Navy is conducting a PHR in response to a Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General hotline complaint received in July 2015 which alleged that since 2004, military and civilian personnel working for the DoD Office of Military Commissions (OMC) at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, had been exposed to carcinogens in an area surrounding the Commissions' trailers, tents, offices and courtrooms, and requested DoD conduct environmental tests and inspections. In response to the referral, the Navy launched a public health review conducted by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center with the assistance of Navy Installations Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Command components, and under Navy Medicine East and Naval Inspector General oversight, to determine if environmental contamination exists that poses a substantial impact to human health and safety.

### **Q3: WHERE is the PHR taking place?**

A3: The PHR is being conducted at Camp Justice, located at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

### **Q4: HOW LONG will the PHR take to complete?**

A4: The PHR, which began in August 2015, will take approximately 18 months to complete.

### **Q5: WHO is conducting the PHR?**

A5: The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center is conducting the public health review, with the assistance of Navy Installations Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Command components, and under Navy Medicine East and Naval Inspector General oversight.

### **Q6: WHEN will the PHR be completed?**

A6: The public health team will continue to compile their report and present the final assessments and recommendations to Navy leadership by the end of calendar year 2016.

**Q7: HOW MANY medical records were reviewed to support the PHR?**

A7: The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center team reviewed over 700\* medical records of active duty personnel who have served at the Office of Military Commissions (OMC).

*\*700 is the total number of active duty records that were reviewed and **not** the number of alleged cancer cases related to the DoD hotline complaint.*

**Q8: What does “habitable for occupancy” mean?**

A8: Habitable for occupancy means that there are no imminent health hazards to personnel working in those locations which were part of the preliminary health review by the public health team. Based on a review of available documentation, the site visit, and environmental testing results, the public health experts determined that the buildings, tents, and trailers where personnel live and work are safe and habitable for occupancy.

**Q9: How many cancer cases were alleged in the initial DoD hotline complaint?**

A9: The initial complaint alleged nine cancer cases.

**Q10: What type of sampling is being done for the PHR?**

A10: In support of the PHR, the assessment team conducted environmental sampling in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. The environmental sampling efforts included indoor air sampling, soil sampling, water sampling, paint chip sampling, and ionizing radiation testing in and around multiple buildings within Camp Justice. Emissions testing of the air curtain incinerators on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is also being conducted.

**Q11: How many samples have been taken to support the PHR?**

A11: The below table outlines the type and number of samples that have been collected in support of the PHR.

<b>Environmental Investigation</b>	
Sample Type	Number of Samples
Soil	69
Indoor Air	222
Water	17
PCBs	3

  

<b>Supplemental Environmental Investigation</b>	
Sample Type	Number of Samples
Soil	23
Indoor Air	19
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	9

  

<b>Supplemental Environmental Investigation Formaldehyde Sampling</b>	
Sample Type	Number of Samples
Indoor Air	31

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**Emissions Test Air Curtain Incinerator**

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Sample Type	Number of Samples
Emission	170

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**Q12: How often is sampling done for the PHR?**

A12: Sampling to support the PHR took place on four different occasions; sampling of the indoor air quality in the buildings, tents, and modular buildings, also known as Cuzcos, at Camp Justice occurred September 26 - 28, 2015; more in-depth environmental sampling occurred in and around the buildings within Camp Justice October 9 - 16, 2015, and additional sampling, to fill data gaps from the October 9-16, 2015 sampling event occurred April 16 - 23, 2016. Emissions testing at the Naval Station Guantanamo air curtain incinerator occurred April 18 - 30, 2016.

**Q13: Will more sampling be needed after the PHR is completed?**

A13: Following a thorough review of the public health team's report, Navy leadership will determine any additional steps that may be necessary.

**Q14: What happens after the PHR is completed?**

A14: The preliminary public health and environmental technical reports that have been produced to date for this effort provide critical information and details that will contribute to the final report which is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2016. Following a thorough review of the final report by Navy leadership, any additional actions that may be needed will be determined at that time.

*Fact sheets, preliminary reports, and this frequently asked questions (FAQ) document may be found on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay public website public health review webpage at: <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/gtmophr>*