

FACT SHEET

Overseas Baseline Environmental Assessment Report of April 7, 2016

Office of Military Commissions
Camp Justice, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Introduction

The Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center is performing a comprehensive and multi-faceted Public Health Review (PHR) to assess potential health risks associated with living and working at Camp Justice. In line with the Navy's commitment to continually share important health information during the PHR process, which is still underway, we encourage you to review this Fact Sheet, which contains a brief summary of key information contained in the associated 486 page report. The report and this Fact Sheet are provided as part of the Navy's effort to investigate the potential health risks to personnel serving at Camp Justice on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (NSGB).

Purpose

The purpose of this Overseas Baseline Environmental Assessment (OBEA) was to determine if there are completed onsite or offsite pathways of exposure for chemicals of concern that could be related to past industrial chemicals, usage, storage, or disposal practices at Camp Justice. This information will be used in support of the human health risk assessment that is being developed by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) as part of the comprehensive PHR.

Findings

The OBEA included a site reconnaissance, review of available historical and environmental information, and interviews with personnel identified as having knowledge of current and historical activities and environmental conditions at NSGB. The primary focus of this OBEA is the 40-year history of McCalla Airfield from the 1930s to the 1970s.

That includes aspects of aircraft operation, maintenance, and repair such as the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances and petroleum products. Common aircraft maintenance practices involved parts cleaning, stripping and painting metal surfaces, metal finishing, and lubrication and fluid changes. Fueling operations involved storage, transfer, and transport (via mobile tanks) of petroleum products. Supporting operations with the potential to have involved the use or release of hazardous substances and petroleum products are the firefighter training area and the Base Operation and Support contractor and other contractor activities. Additional environmental concerns are the historical use of AV-29 as a dental clinic (mercury in air) and the presence of asbestos-containing materials in all of the older buildings within Camp Justice.

The concerns for mercury and asbestos were further evaluated in the following reports:

In addition to this Overseas Baseline Environmental Assessment, an Environmental Investigation was conducted and hundreds of chemicals of concern (to include mercury and asbestos) were sampled from indoor air, ambient air, drinking water, soil and building materials to characterize potential exposures and potential health risks. You can view this report at the following link:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrse/pdfs/ns_gitmo/1684_Page_EIR_11_April_2016_for_public_release_10_Aug_2016.pdf

A Supplemental Environmental Investigation was conducted which included mercury and you can view this report at:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrse/pdfs/ns_gitmo/161_page_Supp_EI_Rpt_24_May_2016_for_public_release_10_Aug_2016.pdf

An Indoor Air Quality Assessment was also conducted for AV-29, AV-32, AV-34, Cuzcos, Expeditionary Tents, and the Expeditionary Legal Complex. You can view this report at the following link:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrse/pdfs/ns_gitmo/49_Page_IAQ_Assessment_Report_12_Jan_2016_for_public_release_10_Aug_2016.pdf

Based on historical and environmental information reviewed for this OBEA, the environmental conditions identified appear acceptable under the current and reasonably anticipated future land uses at Camp Justice.

To read the full report associated with this fact sheet, go to:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrse/pdfs/ns_gitmo/486_OBEA_Report_7_April_2016_full_report_for_public_release_10_Aug_2016_Compressed.pdf