

FACT SHEET

Indoor Air Quality Assessment of January 12, 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 49 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 Environmental Investigation (EI) was to document the environmental samples that were collected from Camp Justice 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. This IAQ study determined conditions which might have an impact on indoor air quality and developed recommendations for corrective action. The IAQ assessment focused on a mix of fixed structures, modular housing, and expeditionary tents located in and around Camp Justice.

Findings

The IAQ assessment included the following tasks:

- Determine conditions having the potential to negatively impact IAQ.
- Determine the condition of asbestos containing materials and lead paint.
- Perform environmental monitoring throughout the buildings.
- Perform a limited inspection above the drop ceilings where accessible within buildings.

The results for temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO) in indoor air were compared to recommendations from the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and recommendations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Airborne volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and airborne dust concentrations were compared with outdoor background concentrations, and with the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) recommended occupational exposure limits. Air velocity measurements were used as an indicator of air movement into and out of rooms through doors, window seals, or other building penetrations.

Based upon the results of this assessment, the following recommendations were made:

- Perform airborne asbestos sampling in Building AV-32.
- Review the Operations and Maintenance plan for the previously identified asbestos floor tile and lead paint present in AV-32.
- Replace water-stained ceiling tiles, clean plastic ceiling light covers in AV-34 and clean all visible suspect microbial growth (VSMG).
- Inspect, service, and clean heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in AV-29 and AV-34.

Asbestos sampling was conducted in AV-32 and no samples exceeded the OSHA regulatory standard.

In summary, these results are preliminary – not final. Final conclusions will not be made until all of the data for the PHR have been collected, analyzed and presented in the final PHR Report.

In addition to this IAQ Assessment, an Environmental Investigation was conducted and hundreds of chemicals of concern 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

An Overseas Baseline Environmental Assessment was also conducted to review historical records and determine if there are potential health risks that could be related to past industrial chemicals, usage, storage, or disposal practices at Camp Justice. You can view this report at the following link:

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

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

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrse/pdfs/ns_gitmo/49_Page_IAQ_Assessment_Report_1_2_Jan_2016_for_public_release_10_Aug_2016.pdf