
157 ARW Listening Session

Friday, December 7, 2018

1:15 PM

Meeting Details

- Dec 7, 1400-1600
- H254, Pease ANGB
- Pease Health Issues / Listening Session

Attendees

- Present
 - Col John Pogorek, Wing Commander
 - Col William Davis, Vice Wing Commander
 - CMSgt Matt Heiman, Command Chief
 - LTC Greg Heilshorn, NHNG PAO
 - Maj Derek Brindisi, Public Health Officer
 - Capt Aaron McCarthy, Legislative Liaison
 - CMSgt Pina Iennaco, Medical Group Superintendent
 - TSgt Amanda Goulet, Industrial Hygienist
 - SSgt Sarah Davidson, Public Health Technician
 - Karen Craver, DHHS
 - Whitney Hammond, DHHS
 - Benjamin Chan, DHHS
 - Sai Cherala, DHHS
 - Judith Rees, Dartmouth Cancer Registry
 - Karla Armenti, NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program
 - Sen Shaheen's Office
 - Sen Hassan's office
 - Congresswoman Shea-Porter Office
 - Congressman-elect Pappas Office

- Not Present,
 - ATSDR
 - NIOSH

Wing Commander Initiatives

- Establish a registry to allow effective flow of communication

Discussion

- Introduction and rules of engagement
- Develop an action plan

- Establish a Registry
- This session will be posted to Social Media
- Aug this Year
 - Seacoast Online articles IRT retirees
 - Newscenter Vivian Liegh
 - Bioenvironmental office created OWEHG
 - CODEL letter
- 5 min per person
- Doris Brock
 - Thanks to Col Pogorek and CODEL
 - Camp Lejune studies took too long
 - Community Action Program - Concerning water contamination in Portsmouth
 - Focus on PFOS/PFOA and Industrial Hazards
 - Restoration Advisory Board - How they are remediating the contamination
 - Pappy retired in 2015
 - Issues, 3 x colonoscopies and CT scan
 - Issues with liver, kidney stones, gout, and blood in urine
 - Something is going on with me, and I want it fixed
 - Lu walten back
 - 1988/1989 - asked to find out where all the hazard waste areas
 - Near the control tower was a hydraulic fluid
 - Mix water to dilute
 - Otherside of the runway there was a concrete runoff
 - A lot of damage has been done, that we know of in the last 30 years
- Clarification from Col pogorek, about PFOS/PFOA
- Ed Currie - Unnamed women identified how her husband put out fires every 3 weeks
 - Trees were dying, pooling of toxins
 - Restoration program
 - Water was poison for years
 - I am proud of the AF, but not the water situation
 - Get rid of the well, just close it done
 - Restoration project is online for everyone to read
- Harry - 509th / 1980-1983 / Security Police - Saw the pits of JP-4
 - Lived in base housing
 - Hospital tested the water on a monthly basis in base housing
 - Use to take kids to a local
 - Daughter was born with a birth defect and died
 - 1-5 kids born at Pease were born with birth defects
 - He feels it was related to water
- Scott - Retired Lt Col
 - We knew about this in 1973
 - 1982-3 Promoted to Capt - 17 of his men had birth defects
 - Senior Nuclear weapons convoy commander
 - FB111 bases had birth defects
 - 3 x Battlestaff we were talking about the contamination of water

- 1979-83 1st tour
 - Short range attack missiles, nukes
- Husband Wayne Perreault 20-22 years, unknown occupation
 - 1988
 - No cancer in his families
 - Heart specialist sought for his ailing heart
 - Conscientious eater
 - 14 months after w
 - Spleen, liver, stomach and Pancreas Cancer, Stage IV
 - Died 2 months after diagnosis
- 1994 environmental specialist
 - Lived on the base until 1987, until the base closed
 - Joined NHNG
 - TCE worry in the water during the 1980s
 - 2005 diagnosed by PCP with bladder cancer
 - Found some more bladder cancer after 10 years
 - Encourage people who served in 1980-1990s to get tested
- Wayne, Comm
 - 84-89
 - Diagnosed with cancer within retirement, hodkins lymphoma
- CMSgt Tony Lebel
 - Came to Pease in 1990
 - Concerned with the EPA superfund sites
 - He was stationed at least 4 of the base of the concerns
 - Degenerative disk disease
 - Protein foam in the 60s
 - People use to be hosed down for fun as a joke
 - Floors were washed with JP-4
 - Washing hands with solvents, didn't know they were in the wrong
 - 1990s the USAF started to take preventative measures
 - Fumes, oils, asbestos, metals
 - Hosing floors down the water smelled funny
 - Concerned for everyone exposed during the time
 - FT, PT, State workers have been exposed
 - VA focuses on locations, not hazards
 - Identify where you have been
 - Focus on the young and old
 - EPA identifies hotspots, VA doesn't
- Kathy Northrop
 - Husband Russ 1978-1991
 - Neurologic disease - PSP - caused by exposure to toxins
- Maria
 - 1978-1998
 - 1984-1987 SSgt Perez Intelligence
 - 60-80% disability

- Health issues are unknown, ultrasounds, MRIs
 - Degenerative disk issue
- Gordy
 - Never stationed at Pease
 - Collecting data and pinpoint to the VA
 - Stationed at Pease triggers some type additional screening with VA
- Joanne husband is in the Guard 1981-1990
 - Thought her husband had lung cancer
 - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis of the lungs - they don't know what caused it
 - Husband told 3-5 years to live, currently on 7 years but diminishing
- Jeff Adams
 - Finance stationed here
 - 1977
 - 1995 - received a letter from uSAF
 - Has to go to the VA every 6 months for bloodwork
- Donna
 - 1974 - 1993
 - Husband 1975 - 1999
 - She has never been notified of water issues
 - VA is not aware of the issues at Pease
 - Took 45 min on the phone for someone to know of the issues at Pease
- Peterson
 - 1984, spent 24 year, total of 30+ years at the base
 - TCE was an issue back then
 - Residents had a smell of fuel in their drinking water
 - Cancer was found in blood in his urine
- Dave Makos
 - Worked in Maintenance for 20 years
 - Screened for two years - thank god we have great healthcare around here
 - Discovered cancer - old man cancer - prostate... ran down a long list
 - What percentage of the workforce has had cancer? See statistics
- All cases of cancer are recorded with the state registry, out of state registries don't communicate,
- Dave Caswell
 - DSG 1968-1993 Maintenance
 - Regular job was PNSY, radiation worker, lead worker, removing asbestos
 - High PSA a few years ago - biopsy
 - Wondered if it was caused by both PSNY and Pease
- Patricia
 - Widow of Robert, 157WG Maintenance
 - 1975-1998 service
 - Bone marrow test, summer 1997, cancer entered the bones - died in the winter
 - Worked on planes returning from Vietnam - suspected it was from Agent Orange

- Believes service at Pease has made the cancer extremely aggressive
- Dave member of 157 ARW
 - File a claim with the VA, if it is denied appeal, keep appealing
 - Do not wait for a presumptuous disability
- Ken
 - 509th in the 1970s, then returned to Pease in the 1990s
 - Diagnosed in 2015 stage 3 lymphoma
 - 1990 - airplane caught on fire
 - Was told that the filters were not working
 - Chemicals that they used some of the chemical in the recent study
 - Agent orange was the focus of his VA disability
- Dr. Prostkoff
 - Anyway of tracking folks from the military system vs the civilian system
- Registry started in the 1990s. Some information is tracked through the VA
- Busby
 - Doesn't have symptoms
 - 2 siblings died of cancer
 - **Is there some type of test? What can we do to be preventative?**
- Lt Col Greg Bapp widow
 - DNA test which costs \$15,000 can identify susceptible cancers
 - Stage IV colon cancer
 - Advocate for blood test
- 1961 -1991 fire test
 - Restoration report
- Robert Smith
 - 2004-2010 Maintainer
 - I have been away for 8 years, but I am currently still at the 90%
 - Maintainers would clean with hydraulic fluids, then burn it late
 - Removal of asbestos without training
 - Testing of fire fighting foam without proper cleanup
 - Cleaning of planes
 - Exposed maintainers to heavy metals and cadmium
 - This hangar is where the chemicals
 - How has the 157 mitigated industrial exposure at Pease? Answered by Col Pogorek
 - How has the 157 ARW collaborated with the VA regarding Toxins at Pease? They are part of our working group.
 - What has changed with the culture at Pease
 - We address and assess the concerns
- CMSgt Lebel
 - The programs that have been brought up through the years have improved
 - Wall to wall inventory of chemicals
 - Right to know of chemicals
- Amanda Goulet
 - Occupational Surveillance Program re-cap

- MSgt works in the aircraft maintenance shop
 - We have the opportunity to do it the correct way - KC-46 hangar
- Tom Sherman, State Senator
 - Studying cancer clusters locally along with Martha Fuller Clark
- 133rd ARS retire
 - Will the communication registry provide resources for the registry
- Will we reopen blood testing?
- Could we have a list of specific tests?
- Closing remarks

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