



This fact sheet is the second in a series designed to inform residents and other interested parties about health risks and the Navy's efforts to reduce those risks resulting from exposure to air pollution at Naval Air Facility, Atsugi, Japan. Fact sheets will be produced periodically to keep individuals informed about ongoing health risk reduction efforts, health studies, and in response to other items of community interest. Distribution is coordinated through the NAF Atsugi Health Risk Communication Officer, telephone: DSN 264-3064/4921/4922/4923 or commercial 011-81-3117-64-3064/4921/4922/4923.

Introduction. The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform NAF Atsugi residents about the status of the full health risk assessment. It contains a summary of the air quality findings for April – July 1998 and the results of soil testing.

Background. The Navy Environmental Health Center is conducting a comprehensive health risk assessment at NAF Atsugi, Japan. Data collection for the health risk assessment began in March 1998 and will continue through April 1999. The primary objective of the full health risk assessment is to define the long and short-term health risks at NAF Atsugi caused by environmental conditions. Outdoor air sampling is being conducted at five fixed locations on the base. These sites include the



elementary school, a residential tower, the golf course, ground electronics maintenance, and an upwind site near the skeet range. A mobile sampler is also in use. Air samples will be collected for a period of one year. Soil samples were collected at the five air monitoring stations and many more locations throughout the base.

Air Sampling Results April – July 1998. So far, the results of our outdoor air sampling show that possible health risk is about the same as those found in the 1995 and 1998 screening health risk assessments (excess cancer risk of about 1/10,000 after about 3 years for children less than 6 years of age and after about 6 years for adults) About 30 different materials contribute to this risk. Our new sampling information shows that dioxin levels are far less than in the 1995 and 1998 studies. The amount of soot, ash, and dust detected was also much less than in earlier air quality studies. A group of compounds called **aldehydes** were identified as contributors to the health risk during this sampling period. Aldehydes are compounds that can be

produced from low temperature burning. Sampling for these compounds was not done in the earlier, screening studies. Aldehydes can irritate the respiratory system, eyes, and skin.

Soil Testing. We conducted soil sampling in March 1998. Evaluation of soil sample results indicates that the **soil does not contribute significantly to the health risk**. Samples were tested for the presence of dioxins, a variety of metals and other materials normally found in incinerator ash. Dioxin levels in the soil were less than we expected. The type of dioxins identified and the way in which they were found (concentrations decreased with distance from the Shinkampo Complex) are consistent with incinerator operations.



Additional Information. For additional information please contact NAF Atsugi's Health Risk Communications Office at DSN 264-3064/4921/4922/4923 or commercial 011-81-3117-64-3064/4921/4922/4923 or the Navy Environmental Health Center at DSN 253-5548 or commercial (757) 462-5548. You may also visit the NAF Atsugi website at <http://www.atsugi.navy.mil> or the Navy Environmental Health Center website at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil> to get answers to frequently asked questions or view the latest fact sheets.