



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
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MCHB-IP-RDE

20 MAR 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR Office of the Command Surgeon (LTC (b) (6)), U.S.  
Central Command, 7115 South Boundary Boulevard, MacDill Air Force Base, FL  
33621-5101

SUBJECT: Deployment Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance Sample  
Report, Airborne Volatile Organic Compounds, Siah Choy, Afghanistan,  
7 February 2013, U\_AFG\_SIAHCHOY\_IP\_A17\_20130207

1. The enclosed report details the assessment of two volatile organic compound air  
samples collected by 794th Medical Detachment personnel, Siah Choy, Afghanistan,  
7 February 2013.

2. None of the chemicals detected in the samples were identified as acute hazards.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

(b) (6)

Encl

Portfolio Director, Health Risk Management

CF: (w/encl)

794th MED DET (Commander/CPT (b) (6))

USFOR-A (Force Health Protection Officer/MAJ (b) (6))

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USAFSAM (Chief, Special Projects/Maj (b) (6))



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**U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND**

5158 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5403

**Deployment Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance  
Sample Report, U\_AFG\_SIAHCHOY\_IP\_A17\_20130207  
Health Risk Management Portfolio**

**Airborne Volatile Organic Compounds, Siah Choy, Afghanistan**

Prepared by (b) (6) [REDACTED]  
**Deployment Environmental Surveillance Program**

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**Preventive Medicine Surveys: 40-5f1**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Deployment Occupational and Environmental  
Health Surveillance Sample Report  
Airborne Volatile Organic Compounds  
Siah Choy, Afghanistan  
7 February 2013  
U\_AFG\_SIAHCHOY\_IP\_A17\_20130207**

## **1 References**

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See Appendix A for a list of references.

## **2 Purpose**

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This report provides the U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC), Army Institute of Public Health (AIPH) assessment of the laboratory analytical results and exposure information associated with the samples collected by 794th Medical Detachment personnel on 7 February 2013 at Siah Choy, Afghanistan according to the U.S. Department of Defense deployment occupational and environmental health (DOEH) surveillance requirements. The assessment serves several purposes. It identifies DOEH hazards that may be related to acute health effects that could occur in personnel during their deployment. It provides an official record of observed exposure conditions for use in future site evaluations. It identifies whether or not there is a potential for chronic health concerns which may require additional characterization. Finally, this report includes preventive steps to reduce or eliminate occupational and environmental exposures, and surveillance and/or sampling recommendations, as necessary.

## **3 Scope**

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The assessment of sample results and exposure information in this report follows the process published in the USAPHC Technical Guide (TG) 230 "Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Chemical Exposure Guidelines for Deployed Military Personnel, June 2010 Revision." The assessment is based on limited data representing a specific time period and assesses short-term exposure risks only. Therefore, this report cannot be used alone to estimate the risk of chronic health effects from exposures. In addition, this assessment does not address all DOEH hazards to which U.S. personnel may be exposed.

## **4 Laboratory Analysis**

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These deployment air samples were analyzed at the USAPHC, AIPH laboratory for a standard set of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The complete analytical sample results can be viewed in the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS). Log into the DOEHRS and search for the samples using the DOEHRS sample identification numbers (IDs) provided in Table 1.

**Table 1. Sample Identification Information**

DOEHRS Sample ID	Sample ID Reported on Field Data Sheet	Sample Site	Date and Time Sample Collected	Sampling Duration	Sample Invalid (Yes/No) Reason for Invalid Sample
00008LV3	AFG_SIAHCH_1303 8_01DVS	Burn Pit	2013/02/07 0836	480.0 minutes	No
00008LV7	AFG_SIAHCH_1303 8_02DVS	Burn Pit	2013/02/07 0836	480.0 minutes	No

## 5 Exposure Setting

Table 2 contains information about the sampling location, environmental conditions, and associated potential population exposure. The information was provided on the field data sheets and/or exposure assessment worksheet submitted with the samples unless otherwise noted. Correction and clarification of exposure assumptions by the sampling unit is encouraged.

**Table 2. Exposure Information**

Questions About Exposure	Information Provided and Assumptions
Why was this sample/sample set collected?	The sample set was collected for routine sampling of VOCs in the ambient air pathway.
What population is exposed and how?	All personnel breathe the ambient air. However, it is assumed that personnel spend part of each day indoors.
What is the timeframe under consideration?	Although personnel will be deployed to this location for approximately 9 months, only the sample date is being assessed.
Where was the sample/sample set collected?	The sample set was collected near the burn pit, which is downwind from the camp.
What is known about location, activity, setting and potential sources of contamination that may affect exposure?	The burn pit is most frequently used by the Afghan National Army. Although U.S. personnel only burn trash every 3-5 days, the burn pit is left to burn and/or smolder constantly. Metal, aluminum cans, and plastic were observed being burned.

## 6 Prescreen

Table 3 shows whether parameters are identified as potential hazards because their concentrations are greater than their most health-protective screening level USAPHC TG 230 military exposure guidelines (MEGs). Potential hazards are further assessed to determine if they are acute hazards. Parameters analyzed but not shown in Table 3 are not considered hazards. The prescreening is conducted as described in USAPHC TG 230, section 3.4.3. The sample results were compared to MEGs on 6 March 2013.

**Table 3. Results of Prescreen**

Parameter	Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1-year Negligible MEG ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Result
Decane	2.1254	Not Defined	Retain as potential hazard

Legend:  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  = micrograms per cubic meter

## 7 Acute Screen

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Table 4 shows whether parameters identified as potential hazards after prescreening are considered acute hazards because their concentrations are greater than their acute screening MEGs. Acute hazards are further assessed to estimate the tactical risk from exposure to these parameters in the ambient air. The acute screening is conducted as described in USAPHC TG 230, section 3.4.5.1.

**Table 4. Results of Acute Screen**

Parameter	Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Screening MEG ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Result
Decane	2.1254	1-hour Negligible MEG: 1000	Exclude as acute hazard

Legend:  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  = micrograms per cubic meter

## 8 Conclusion

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None of the chemicals detected in the samples were identified as acute hazards because their concentrations were not greater than their acute screening level MEGs.

## 9 Limitations

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### 9.1 Field Data Quality

Field data provided with the samples were adequate.

### 9.2 Sample Receipt at USAPHC Laboratory

The sample set was received at the USAPHC at a temperature of 17 degrees Celsius.

### 9.3 Laboratory Data Quality

No laboratory data quality issues associated with this sample set were identified.



## 10 Recommendations

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Maintain communication with USAPHC, AIPH points of contact (POCs) and continue standard surveillance of airborne VOCs in accordance with defined Occupational and Environmental Health Site Assessment (OEHSA) Exposure Pathways and sampling plans for your location.

An OEHSA was in progress for Siah Choy, Afghanistan at the time of sampling. Collect ambient VOC air samples from sites that best represent exposures at least once every 6 days to better characterize conditions over time. Update the OEHSA annually or as the exposure scenario changes.

## 11 Points of Contact

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The USAPHC, AIPH POCs for this assessment are Ms. (b) (6) and Ms. (b) (6). Ms. (b) (6) may be contacted at e-mail (b) (6) and Ms. (b) (6) may be contacted at e-mail (b) (6), or DSN (b) (6) or commercial (b) (6).

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## Appendix A

### References

- Department of Defense. 2004. Department of Defense Directive 6490.02E, *Comprehensive Health Surveillance*. <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/649002Ep.pdf>
- Department of Defense. 2006. Department of Defense Instruction 6490.03, *Deployment Health*. <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/649003p.pdf>
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- U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional). 2010. Technical Guide 230, *Chemical Exposure Guidelines for Deployed Military Personnel*. <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TG230.pdf>