

Military Deployment
Periodic Occupational and Environmental Monitoring Summary (POEMS):
Kirkuk Airbase and vicinity, Iraq
Calendar Years: 2003 to 2011

AUTHORITY: This periodic occupational and environmental monitoring summary (POEMS) has been developed in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Instructions 6490.03, 6055.05, and JCSM (MCM) 0017-12, See *REFERENCES*.

PURPOSE: This POEMS documents the Department of Defense (DoD) assessment of occupational and environmental health (OEH) risk for Kirkuk Airbase (AB), Iraq and vicinity that includes K-1 Airbase, Dibbis Dam, Fort Mountaineer, Northern Oil Company Refinery, United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk, and Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior. It presents a qualitative summary of health risks identified at this location and their potential medical implications. The report is based on information collected from 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011 to include deployment OEHS sampling and monitoring data (e.g., air, water, and soil), field investigation and health assessment reports, as well as country and area-specific information on endemic diseases.

This assessment assumes that environmental sampling at Kirkuk AB and vicinity during this period was performed at representative exposure points selected to characterize health risks at the *population-level*. Due to the nature of environmental sampling, the data upon which this report is based may not be fully representative of all the fluctuations in environmental quality or capture unique occurrences. While one might expect health risks pertaining to historic or future conditions at this site to be similar to those described in this report, the health risk assessment is limited to 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011.

The POEMS can be useful to inform healthcare providers and others of environmental conditions experienced by individuals deployed to Kirkuk AB and vicinity during the period of this assessment. However, it does not represent an individual exposure profile. Individual exposures depend on many variables such as; how long, how often, where and what someone is doing while working and/or spending time outside. Individual outdoor activities and associated routes of exposure are extremely variable and cannot be identified from or during environmental sampling. Individuals who sought medical treatment related to OEH exposures while deployed should have exposure/treatment noted in their medical record on a Standard Form (SF) 600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care).

SITE DESCRIPTION: Kirkuk AB was an airbase located in northern Iraq, approximately 240 kilometers north of Baghdad and 1.6 kilometers west of the city of Kirkuk. Prior to the United States establishing a presence in Iraq, the base was an Iraqi military base with support facilities for at least two fighter squadrons. The base occupied a nine square kilometer site and had two main runways. K-1 Airbase was a former Iraqi Air Force base that was used as a contingency operating location after seizure by the United States Army in 2003. The Dibbis Dam is an embankment dam located on the Lesser Zab River in the Kirkuk Governorate of Iraq. Fort Mountaineer was a basecamp located south of the city of Kirkuk. The Northern Oil Company Refinery was a refinery located in the Kirkuk governorate that was owned by the Northern Oil Company, a state company within the Ministry of Oil of Iraq. The United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk is a consulate located on the Kirkuk AB. FOB Warrior was a forward operating base located on Kirkuk AB and was also known as Camp Warrior. Risk levels are general for the area and may not be specific to particular base camps.

SUMMARY: Conditions that may pose a Moderate or greater health risk are summarized in Table 1. Table 2 provides population based risk estimates for identified OEH conditions at Kirkuk AB and vicinity. As indicated in the detailed sections that follow Table 2, controls established to reduce health risk were factored into this assessment. In some cases, e.g., ambient air, specific controls are noted, but not routinely available/feasible.

Table 1: Summary of Occupational and Environmental Conditions with MODERATE or Greater Health Risk

Short-term health risks & medical implications:

The following hazards may be associated with potential acute health effects in some personnel during deployment at Kirkuk AB and vicinity that includes K-1 Airbase, Dibbis Dam, Fort Mountaineer, Northern Oil Company Refinery, United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk, and FOB Warrior:

Inhalable coarse particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀), food/waterborne diseases (e.g., bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever, diarrhea-cholera, diarrhea-protozoal, brucellosis, hepatitis E); other endemic diseases (cutaneous leishmaniasis (acute), Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, sandfly fever, typhus-miteborne, leptospirosis, schistosomiasis, Tuberculosis (TB), rabies, Q fever); and heat stress. For food/waterborne diseases (e.g., bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever, diarrhea-cholera, diarrhea-protozoal, brucellosis, hepatitis E), if ingesting local food and water, the health effects can temporarily incapacitate personnel (diarrhea) or result in prolonged illness (hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever, brucellosis, hepatitis E). Risks from food/waterborne diseases may have been reduced with preventive medicine controls and mitigation, which includes hepatitis A and typhoid fever vaccinations and only drinking from approved water sources in accordance with standing CENTCOM policy. For other vector-borne endemic diseases (cutaneous leishmaniasis (acute), Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, sandfly fever, typhus-miteborne), these diseases may constitute a significant risk due to exposure to biting vectors; risk reduced to 'Low' by proper wear of the treated uniform, application of repellent to exposed skin, bed net use, and appropriate chemoprophylaxis, as well as minimizing areas of standing water and other vector-breeding areas. For water contact diseases (leptospirosis, schistosomiasis), activities involving extensive contact with surface water increase risk. For respiratory diseases (TB), personnel in close-quarter conditions could have been at risk for person-to-person spread. Animal contact diseases (rabies, Q fever), pose year-round risk. For heat stress, risk can be greater during months of April through October, and greater for susceptible persons including those older than 45, of low fitness level, unacclimatized, or with underlying medical conditions, and those under operational constraints (equipment, PPE, vehicles). Risks from heat stress may have been reduced with preventive medicine controls, work-rest cycles, proper hydration and nutrition, and mitigation.

Air quality: For inhalable coarse particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀), the PM₁₀ overall short-term risk was 'Low to Moderate.' For inhalable fine particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}), the PM_{2.5} overall short-term risk was 'Low.' However, exposures to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} may vary, as conditions may vary, and may result in mild to more serious short-term health effects (e.g., eye, nose or throat and lung irritation) in some personnel while at this site, particularly exposures to high levels of dust such as during high winds or dust storms. For PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, certain subgroups of the deployed forces (e.g., those with pre-existing asthma/cardio-pulmonary conditions) are at greatest risk of developing notable health effects. For burn pits, although the short-term risk for PM₁₀ and for PM_{2.5} was not evaluated due to no data available for PM₁₀ and insufficient data available for PM_{2.5}, there were operating burn pits (or incinerators) utilized at or around Kirkuk AB and vicinity – see Section 10.7. For burn pits, exposures may vary, and exposure to high levels of PM₁₀ and to PM_{2.5} in the smoke may also result in mild to more serious short-term health effects (e.g., eye, nose or throat and lung irritation) in some personnel and certain subgroups while at this site. Although most short-term health effects from exposure to particulate matter and burn pit smoke should have resolved post-deployment, providers should be prepared to consider the relationship between deployment exposures and current complaints. Some individuals may have sought treatment for acute respiratory irritation during their time at Kirkuk AB and vicinity. Personnel who reported with symptoms or required treatment while at this site should have exposure and treatment noted in medical record (e.g., electronic medical record and/or on a Standard Form (SF) 600 (*Chronological Record of Medical Care*)).

Long-term health risks & medical implications:

The following hazards may be associated with potential chronic health effects in some personnel during deployment at Kirkuk AB and vicinity that includes K-1 Airbase, Dibbis Dam, Fort Mountaineer, Northern Oil Company Refinery, United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk, and FOB Warrior:

Air quality: For inhalable fine particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}), the overall long-term risk was 'Low.' Inhalable coarse particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀) was not evaluated for long-term risk due to no available health guidelines. However, the area was a dusty desert environment, and conditions may have varied. In addition, for burn pits, although the long-term risk for PM₁₀ and for PM_{2.5} was not evaluated due to no available data for PM₁₀ and insufficient data available for PM_{2.5}, there were operating burn pits (or incinerators) utilized at or around Kirkuk AB and vicinity, and conditions may have varied – see Section 10.7. For inhalational exposure to high levels of dust, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, such as during high winds or dust storms, and for exposure to burn pit smoke, it is considered possible that some otherwise healthy personnel who were exposed for a long-term period to dust and particulate matter could develop certain health conditions (e.g., reduced lung function, cardiopulmonary disease). Personnel with a history of asthma or cardiopulmonary disease could potentially be more likely to develop such chronic health conditions. While the dust and particulate matter exposures and exposures to burn pits are acknowledged, at this time there were no specific recommended, post-deployment medical surveillance evaluations or treatments. Providers should still consider overall individual health status (e.g., any underlying conditions/susceptibilities) and any potential unique individual exposures (such as burn pits/barrels, incinerators, occupational or specific personal dosimeter data) when assessing individual concerns. Certain individuals may need to be followed/evaluated for specific occupational exposures/injuries (e.g., annual audiograms

as part of the medical surveillance for those enrolled in the Hearing Conservation Program; and personnel covered by Respiratory Protection Program and/or Hazardous Waste/Emergency Responders Medical Surveillance).

Table 2. Population-Based Health Risk Estimates – Kirkuk AB and vicinity that includes K-1 Airbase, Dibbis Dam, Fort Mountaineer, Northern Oil Company Refinery, United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk, and FOB Warrior^{1, 2}

Source of Identified Health Risk ³	Unmitigated Health Risk Estimate ⁴	Control Measures Implemented	Residual Health Risk Estimate ⁴
AIR			
Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM ₁₀)	Short-term: Low to Moderate, Daily levels vary, acute health effects (e.g., upper respiratory tract irritation) more pronounced during peak days. More serious effects are possible in susceptible persons (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).	Limiting strenuous physical activities when air quality is especially poor; and actions such as closing tent flaps, windows, and doors.	Short-term: Low to Moderate, Daily levels vary, acute health effects (e.g., upper respiratory tract irritation) more pronounced during peak days. More serious effects are possible in susceptible persons (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).
	Long-term: No health guidelines		Long-term: No health guidelines
Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM _{2.5})	Short-term: Low, A majority of the time mild acute (short term) health effects are anticipated; certain peak levels may produce mild eye, nose, or throat irritation in some personnel and pre-existing health conditions (e.g., asthma, or cardiopulmonary diseases) may be exacerbated.	Limiting strenuous physical activities when air quality is especially poor; and actions such as closing tent flaps, windows, and doors.	Short-term: Low, A majority of the time mild acute (short term) health effects are anticipated; certain peak levels may produce mild eye, nose, or throat irritation in some personnel and pre-existing health conditions (e.g., asthma, or cardiopulmonary diseases) may be exacerbated.
	Long-term: Low. A small percentage of personnel may be at increased risk for developing chronic conditions. Particularly those more susceptible to acute effects (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).		Long-term: Low. A small percentage of personnel may be at increased risk for developing chronic conditions. Particularly those more susceptible to acute effects (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).
ENDEMIC DISEASE			
Food borne/Waterborne (e.g., diarrhea-bacteriological)	Short-term: Variable, (bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever) to Moderate (diarrhea-cholera, diarrhea- protozoal, brucellosis and hepatitis E). If local food/water were consumed, the health effects can temporarily incapacitate personnel (diarrhea) or result in prolonged illness (Hepatitis A, Typhoid fever, Brucellosis, Hepatitis E).	Preventive measures include Hepatitis A and Typhoid fever vaccination and consumption of food and water only from approved sources.	Short-term: Low to none
	Long-term: none identified		Long-term: No data available
Arthropod Vector Borne	Short-term: Variable, Moderate for leishmaniasis-cutaneous, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, sandfly fever and typhus-miteborne; Low for West Nile fever, and Plague.	Preventive measures include proper wear of treated uniform, application of repellent to exposed skin, and bed net use, minimizing areas of standing water and appropriate chemoprophylaxis.	Short-term: Low
	Long-term: Low (Leishmaniasis-visceral infection)		Long-term: No data available
Water-Contact (e.g., wading, swimming)	Short-term: Moderate for leptospirosis and schistosomiasis.		Short-term: Moderate for leptospirosis and schistosomiasis.
	Long-term: No data available		Long-term: No data available
Respiratory	Short-term: Variable; Moderate for	Providing adequate living	Short-term: Low

Source of Identified Health Risk ³	Unmitigated Health Risk Estimate ⁴	Control Measures Implemented	Residual Health Risk Estimate ⁴
	tuberculosis (TB) to Low for meningococcal meningitis. Long-term: No data available	and work space; medical screening; vaccination	Long-term: No data available
Animal Contact	Short-term: Variable; Moderate for rabies and Q-fever, and Low for Anthrax and H5N1 avian influenza. Long-term: Low (Rabies)	Prohibiting contact with, adoption, or feeding of feral animals IAW U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) General Order (GO) 1C. Risks are further reduced in the event of assessed contact by prompt post-exposure rabies prophylaxis IAW The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidance.	Short-term: No data available Long-term: No data available
VENOMOUS ANIMAL/ INSECTS			
Snakes, scorpions, and spiders	Short-term: Low; If encountered, effects of venom vary with species from mild localized swelling (e.g. <i>Scorpio maurus</i>) to potentially lethal effects (e.g. <i>Echis carinatus sochureki</i>). Long-term: No data available	Risk reduced by avoiding contact, proper wear of uniform (especially footwear), and proper and timely treatment.	Short-term: Low; If encountered, effects of venom vary with species from mild localized swelling (e.g. <i>Scorpio maurus</i>) to potentially lethal effects (e.g. <i>Echis carinatus sochureki</i>). Long-term: No data available
HEAT/COLD STRESS			
Heat	Short-term: Low to Extremely High; Risk of heat injury is Extremely High for May – October, Moderate for April, and Low for all other months. Long-term: Low, The long-term risk was Low. However, the risk may be greater to certain susceptible persons—those older (i.e., greater than 45 years), in lesser physical shape, or with underlying medical/health conditions.	Work-rest cycles, proper hydration and nutrition, and Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) monitoring.	Short-term: Low; Risk of heat injury in unacclimatized or susceptible personnel is Extremely High for May – October, Moderate for April, and Low for all other months. Long-term: Low, The long-term risk is Low. However, the risk may be greater to certain susceptible persons—those older (i.e., greater than 45 years), in lesser physical shape, or with underlying medical/health conditions.
Cold	Short-term: Low risk of cold stress/injury. Long-term: Low; Long-term health implications from cold injuries are rare but can occur, especially from more serious injuries such as frost bite.	Risks from cold stress reduced with protective measures such as use of the buddy system, limiting exposure during cold weather, proper hydration and nutrition, and proper wear of issued protective clothing.	Short-term: Low risk of cold stress/injury. Long-term: Low; Long-term health implications from cold injuries are rare but can occur, especially from more serious injuries such as frost bite.

Source of Identified Health Risk ³	Unmitigated Health Risk Estimate ⁴	Control Measures Implemented	Residual Health Risk Estimate ⁴
Unique Incidents/ Concerns			
Burn Pits	<p>Short-term: None for airborne VOCs, SVOCs, and soil. Insufficient data available for PM_{2.5} airborne metals and PM_{2.5}.</p> <p>Acute (short-term) symptoms (such as eye, nose, throat, and lung irritation) from short-term exposure to smoke may have occurred, more pronounced during peak days. More serious effects were possible in susceptible persons (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).</p>	<p>Risks reduced by limiting strenuous physical activities when air quality was especially poor; and action such as closing tent flaps, windows, and doors. Other control measures included locating burn pits downwind of prevailing winds, increased distance from troop populations, and improved waste segregation and management techniques.</p>	<p>Short-term: None for airborne VOCs, SVOCs, and soil. Insufficient data available for PM_{2.5} airborne metals and PM_{2.5}.</p> <p>Acute (short-term) symptoms (such as eye, nose, throat, and lung irritation) from short-term exposure to smoke may have occurred, more pronounced during peak days. More serious effects were possible in susceptible persons (e.g., those with asthma/existing respiratory diseases).</p>
	<p>Long-term: None for airborne metals, VOCs, SVOCs, and soil. Insufficient data available for PM_{2.5} airborne metals and PM_{2.5}.</p> <p>Little or no health impacts at the population level have been identified by DOD as of the date of publication of this summary.</p>		

¹This Summary Table provides a qualitative estimate of population-based short- and long-term health risks associated with the occupational environment conditions at Kirkuk AB and vicinity that includes K-1 Airbase, Dibbis Dam, Fort Mountaineer, Northern Oil Company Refinery, United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk, and Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior. It does not represent an individual exposure profile. Actual individual exposures and health effects depend on many variables. For example, while a chemical may have been present in the environment, if a person did not inhale, ingest, or contact a specific dose of the chemical for adequate duration and frequency, then there may have been no health risk. Alternatively, a person at a specific location may have experienced a unique exposure which could result in a significant individual exposure. Any such person seeking medical care should have their specific exposure documented in an SF600.

² This assessment is based on specific environmental sampling data and reports obtained from 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011. Sampling locations are assumed to be representative of exposure points for the camp population but may not reflect all the fluctuations in environmental quality or capture unique exposure incidents.

³This Summary Table is organized by major categories of identified sources of health risk. It only lists those sub-categories specifically identified and addressed at Kirkuk AB and vicinity. The health risks are presented as Low, Moderate, High or Extremely High for both acute and chronic health effects. The health risk level is based on an assessment of both the potential severity of the health effects that could be caused and probability of the exposure that would produce such health effects. Details can be obtained from the Army Public Health Center (Provisional). Where applicable, "None Identified" is used when though a potential exposure is identified, and no health risks of either a specific acute or chronic health effects are determined. More detailed descriptions of OEH exposures that are evaluated but determined to pose no health risk are discussed in the following sections of this report.

⁴Health risks in this Summary Table are based on quantitative surveillance thresholds (e.g., endemic disease rates; host/vector/pathogen surveillance) or screening levels, e.g., Military Exposure Guidelines (MEGs) for chemicals. Some previous assessment reports may provide slightly inconsistent health risk estimates because quantitative criteria such as MEGs may have changed since the samples were originally evaluated and/or because this assessment makes use of all historic site data while previous reports may have only been based on a select few samples.

1 Discussion of Health Risks at Kirkuk AB and vicinity, Iraq by Source

The following sections provide additional information about the OEH conditions summarized above. All risk assessments were performed using the methodology described in the U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) Technical Guide 230, *Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Chemical Exposure Guidelines for Deployed Military Personnel* (USAPHC TG 230, Reference 8). All OEH risk estimates represent residual risk after accounting for preventive controls in place. Occupational exposures and exposures to endemic diseases are greatly reduced by preventive measures. For environmental exposures related to airborne dust, there are limited preventive measures available, and available measures have little efficacy in reducing exposure to ambient conditions.

2 Air

2.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

Kirkuk AB and vicinity is situated in a dusty semi-arid desert environment. Inhalational exposure to high levels of dust and particulate matter, such as during high winds or dust storms, may result in mild to more serious short-term health effects (e.g., eye, nose or throat and lung irritation) in some personnel. Additionally, certain subgroups of the deployed forces (e.g., those with pre-existing asthma/cardio pulmonary conditions) are at greatest risk of developing notable health effects.

2.2 Particulate matter

Particulate matter (PM) is a complex mixture of extremely small particles suspended in the air. The PM includes solid particles and liquid droplets emitted directly into the air by sources such as: power plants, motor vehicles, aircraft, generators, construction activities, fires, and natural windblown dust. The PM can include sand, soil, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), allergens, and other compounds such as nitrates or sulfates that are formed by condensation or transformation of combustion exhaust. The PM composition and particle size vary considerably depending on the source. Generally, PM of health concern is divided into two fractions: PM₁₀, which includes coarse particles with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less, and fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}), which can reach the deepest regions of the lungs when inhaled. Exposure to excessive PM is linked to a variety of potential health effects.

2.3 Particulate matter, less than 10 micrometers (PM₁₀)

2.3.1 Exposure Guidelines:

Short Term (24-hour) PM₁₀ micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³):

- Negligible MEG = 250
- Marginal MEG = 420
- Critical MEG = 600

Long-term PM₁₀ MEG (µg/m³):

- Not defined and not available.

2.3.2 Sample data/Notes:

A total of 54 valid PM₁₀ air samples were collected from 2003 – 2011. The range of 24-hour PM₁₀ concentrations was 25 µg/m³ – 755 µg/m³ with an average concentration of 182 µg/m³.

2.3.3 Short-term health risks:

Low to Moderate: The short-term PM₁₀ health risk assessment is Low based on average PM₁₀ sample concentrations and Moderate based on peak PM₁₀ sample concentrations, and the likelihood of exposure at these hazard severity levels. Therefore, on typical days, exposure to PM₁₀ was likely to have little or no impact on accomplishing the mission. Under peak exposure, mission capabilities were expected to have degraded and will have resulted in reduced mission capability if hazards occurred during the mission (Reference 8, Table 3-2). Daily average health risk levels for PM₁₀ show no hazard for 79.2%, low health risk for 15.1%, moderate health risk for 3.8%, and high health risk for 1.9% of the time. Confidence in the short-term PM₁₀ health risk assessment is low (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

The hazard severity for average PM₁₀ concentrations in samples was negligible. During typical exposures at the negligible hazard severity level (250 µg/m³ - 420 µg/m³), a few personnel may have experienced notable eye, nose, and throat irritation; most personnel would have experienced only mild effects. Those with a history of asthma or cardiopulmonary disease were expected to experience increased symptoms at the negligible hazard severity levels (Reference 8, Table 3-11).

For the highest observed PM₁₀ sample concentration, the hazard severity was marginal. During peak exposures at the marginal hazard severity level (420 µg/m³ - 600 µg/m³), a majority of personnel would experience notable eye, nose, and throat irritation and some respiratory effects. Some lost-duty days were expected. Significant aerobic activity would have increased risk. Those with a history of asthma or cardiopulmonary disease were expected to experience increased symptoms at the marginal hazard severity levels (Reference 8, Table 3-11).

2.3.4 Long-term health risk:

Not Evaluated-no available health guidelines. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has retracted its long-term standard (national ambient air quality standards, NAAQS) for PM₁₀ due to an inability to clearly link chronic health effects with chronic PM₁₀ exposure levels.

2.4 Particulate Matter, less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5})

2.4.1 Exposure Guidelines:

Short Term (24-hour) PM_{2.5} (µg/m³):

- Negligible MEG = 65
- Marginal MEG = 250
- Critical MEG = 500

Long-term (1year) PM_{2.5} MEGs (µg/m³):

- Negligible MEG = 15
- Marginal MEG = 65.

2.4.2 Sample data/Notes:

A total of 67 valid PM_{2.5} air samples were collected from 2007 – 2011. The range of 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentrations was 12 µg/m³ – 230 µg/m³ with an average concentration of 64 µg/m³.

2.4.3 Short-term health risks:

Low: The short-term PM_{2.5} health risk assessment is Low based on average and peak PM_{2.5} sample concentrations, and the likelihood of exposure at these hazard severity levels. Therefore, on typical and peak days, exposure to PM₁₀ was likely to have little or no impact on accomplishing the mission (Reference 8, Table 3-2). Daily average health risk levels for PM_{2.5} show no hazard for 70% and low

health risk for 30% of the time. Confidence in the short-term PM_{2.5} health risk assessment was low (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

The hazard severity was negligible for average and peak PM_{2.5} sample concentrations. During typical and peak exposures at the negligible hazard severity level (65 µg/m³ - 250 µg/m³), a few personnel may have experienced notable eye, nose, and throat irritation; most personnel would have experienced only mild effects. Those with a history of asthma or cardiopulmonary disease were expected to experience increased symptoms at the negligible hazard severity levels (Reference 8, Table 3-11).

2.4.4 Long-term health risks:

Low: The long-term health risk assessment is Low based on average PM_{2.5} concentration and the likelihood of exposure at this hazard severity level. Therefore, on typical days, long-term exposure to PM₁₀ was likely to require no specific medical action (Reference 8, Table 3-3). Confidence in the long-term PM_{2.5} health risk assessment is low (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

The hazard severity was negligible to marginal for average PM_{2.5} sample concentrations. During long-term exposures at the negligible hazard severity level, with repeated exposure it is considered possible that a small percentage of personnel may have increased risk for developing chronic conditions, such as reduced lung function or exacerbated chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, atherosclerosis, or other cardiopulmonary diseases. During long-term exposures at the marginal hazard severity level, with repeated exposure it is plausible that development of chronic health conditions such as reduced lung function or exacerbated chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, atherosclerosis, or other cardiopulmonary diseases could have occurred in generally healthy troops. Those with a history of asthma or cardiopulmonary disease were considered to be at particular risk (Reference 8, Table 3-12).

2.5 Airborne Metals

2.5.1 Sample data/Notes:

A total of 58 valid PM₁₀ airborne metal samples were collected at Kirkuk AB from 22 May 2003 to 9 October 2011. A total of 67 valid PM_{2.5} airborne metal samples were collected at Kirkuk AB from 24 November 20011 to 9 October 2011. Airborne metals in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} were not detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

2.5.2 Short-term and long-term health risks:

None identified based on the available sampling data.

2.6 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs)

2.6.1 Exposure Guidelines:

2.6.2 Sample data/Notes:

A total of 56 valid VOC and SVOC airborne samples were collected at Kirkuk AB from 12 August 2003 to 4 June 2008. Airborne VOCs and SVOCs were not detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

2.6.3 Short and long-term health risks:

None identified based on the available sampling data.

3 Soil

3.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

3.2 Sample data/Notes:

A total of 29 valid surface soil samples were collected from 25 May 2003 to 28 September 2010, to assess OEH health risk to deployed personnel. The primary soil contamination exposure pathways are dermal contact and dust inhalation. Typical parameters analyzed for included semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, herbicides. The percent of the population exposed to soil and associated dust in the sampled areas was 75%. For the risk assessment, personnel are assumed to remain at this location for 6 months to 1 year.

3.3 Short-term health risk:

Not an identified source of health risk. Currently, sampling data for soil are not evaluated for short term (acute) health risks.

3.4 Long-term health risk:

None identified based on available sample data. No parameters exceeded 1-year Negligible MEGs.

4 Water

In order to assess the health risk to U.S. personnel from exposure to water in theater, the APHC (Provisional) identified the most probable exposure pathways. These are based on the administrative information provided on the field data sheets submitted with the samples taken over the time period being evaluated. Based on the information provided from the field, all samples for untreated water samples were associated with complete exposure pathways. Therefore, untreated samples were assessed as potential health hazards.

4.1 Ingested Water

4.1.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

A total of four valid water samples from Kirkuk AB and one valid water sample from Fort Mountaineer were evaluated for drinking or ingestion exposure. A total of 13 valid water samples from Kirkuk AB, one valid water sample from K-1 Airbase, and one valid water sample from the United States Consulate Iraq: Kirkuk were evaluated for nondrinking exposure.

4.1.2 Sample data/Notes:

To assess the potential for adverse health effects to troops, the following assumptions were made about dose and duration: A conservative (protective) assumption was that personnel routinely ingested 5 L/day of bottled water for up to 365 days (1-year). It was further assumed that control measures were not used. A total of five valid water samples were collected from 25 May 2003 to 10 October 2011. No chemicals were detected at levels above the short or long-term MEGs.

4.1.3 Short-term and long-term health risk:

None identified based on available sample data. All collected samples were below the short and long-term Negligible MEGs.

4.2 Non-Drinking Water: Disinfected

4.2.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

Although the primary route of exposure for most microorganisms is ingestion of contaminated water, dermal exposure to some microorganisms, chemicals, and biologicals may also cause adverse health effects. Complete exposure pathways would include drinking, brushing teeth, personal hygiene, cooking, providing medical and dental care using a contaminated water supply or during dermal contact at vehicle or aircraft wash racks.

4.2.2 Sample data/Notes:

To assess the potential for adverse health effects to troops the following assumptions were made about dose and duration: All U.S. personnel at this location were expected to remain at this site for approximately 1 year. A conservative (protective) assumption is that personnel routinely consumed less than 5 liters per day (L/day) of non-drinking water for up to 365 days (1-year). It is further assumed that control measures and/or personal protective equipment were not used. A total of 15 valid water samples were collected from 18 August 2003 to 22 September 2010. No chemicals were detected at levels above the short or long-term MEGs.

4.2.3 Short and long-term health risks:

None identified based on available sample data. All collected samples were below the short and long-term Negligible MEGs.

5 Military Unique

5.1 Chemical Biological, Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Weapons

No specific hazard sources were documented in the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) or the Military Environmental Surveillance Library (MESL) from the 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011 timeframe.

5.2 Depleted Uranium (DU)

5.2.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

United States DU munitions were stored at Kirkuk AB during the initial stages of the United States' military presence. The DU munitions were removed between September 2004 and January 2005 (Reference 11).

5.2.2 Short and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from exposure to DU.

5.3 Ionizing Radiation

5.3.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

Ionizing radiation sources included x-ray units and vehicle inspection systems (Reference 11). One barrel of radioactive material was uncovered and disposed of in June 2003 (Reference 11).

5.3.2 Short and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from exposure to ionizing radiation.

5.4 Non-Ionizing Radiation

5.4.1 Site-Specific Sources Identified

Non-ionizing radiation sources included radar and communications equipment (Reference 11). Radiofrequency radiation emitters at Kirkuk AB were in locations where the emitted radiation was not accessible and radiofrequency radiation warning signs were posted on all accessible microwave dishes (Reference 12).

5.4.2 Short and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from exposure to non-ionizing radiation.

6 Endemic Diseases

This section lists the endemic diseases reported in the region, its specific health risks and severity and general health information about the diseases. USCENTCOM MOD 12 (Reference 10) lists deployment requirements, to include immunizations and chemoprophylaxis, in effect during the timeframe of this POEMS.

6.1 Foodborne and Waterborne Diseases

Food borne and waterborne diseases in the area are transmitted through the consumption of local food and water. Local unapproved food and water sources (including ice) are heavily contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, parasites, and viruses to which most U.S. Service members have little or no natural immunity. Effective host nation disease surveillance does not exist within the country. Only a small fraction of diseases are identified or reported in host nation personnel. Diarrheal diseases are expected to temporarily incapacitate a very high percentage of U.S. personnel within days if local food, water, or ice is consumed. Hepatitis A and typhoid fever infections typically cause prolonged illness in a smaller percentage of unvaccinated personnel. Vaccinations are required for DOD personnel and contractors. In addition, although not specifically assessed in this document, significant outbreaks of viral gastroenteritis (e.g., norovirus) and food poisoning (e.g., *Bacillus cereus*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Staphylococcus*) may occur. Key disease risks are summarized below:

Mitigation strategies were in place and included consuming food and water from approved sources, vaccinations (when available), frequent hand washing and general sanitation practices.

6.1.1 Diarrheal diseases (bacteriological)

High, mitigated to Low: Diarrheal diseases are expected to temporarily incapacitate a very high percentage of personnel (potentially over 50% per month) within days if local food, water, or ice is

consumed. Field conditions (including lack of hand washing and primitive sanitation) may facilitate person-to-person spread and epidemics. Typically mild disease treated in outpatient setting; recovery and return to duty in less than 72 hours with appropriate therapy. A small proportion of infections may require greater than 72 hours limited duty, or hospitalization.

6.1.2 Hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever, and diarrhea-protozoal

High, mitigated to Low: Unmitigated health risk to U.S. personnel is high year round for hepatitis A and typhoid/paratyphoid fever, and Moderate for diarrhea-protozoal. Mitigation was in place to reduce the risks to low. Hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever, and diarrhea-protozoal disease may cause prolonged illness in a small percentage of personnel (less than 1% per month). Although much rarer, other potential diseases in this area that are also considered a Moderate risk include: hepatitis E, diarrhea-cholera, and brucellosis.

6.1.3 Short-term Health Risks:

Low: The overall unmitigated short-term risk associated with food borne and waterborne diseases are considered High (bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid/paratyphoid fever) to Moderate (diarrhea-cholera, diarrhea-protozoal, brucellosis) to Low (hepatitis E) if local food or water is consumed. Preventive Medicine measures reduced the risk to Low. Confidence in the health risk estimate was high.

6.1.4 Long-term Health Risks:

None identified based on available data.

6.2 Arthropod Vector-Borne Diseases

During the warmer months, the climate and ecological habitat support populations of arthropod vectors, including mosquitoes, ticks, mites, and sandflies. Significant disease transmission is sustained countrywide, including urban areas. Mitigation strategies were in place and included proper wear of treated uniforms, application of repellent to exposed skin, and use of bed nets and chemoprophylaxis (when applicable). Additional methods included the use of pesticides, reduction of pest/breeding habitats, and engineering controls.

6.2.1 Malaria

None: Indigenous transmission of malaria in Iraq was eliminated as of 2008 reducing risk among personnel exposed to mosquito bites to None.

6.2.2 Leishmaniasis

Moderate, mitigated to Low: The disease risk is Moderate during the warmer months when sandflies are most prevalent, but reduced to low with mitigation measures. Leishmaniasis is transmitted by sand flies. There are two forms of the disease; cutaneous (acute form) and visceral (a more latent form of the disease). The leishmaniasis parasites may survive for years in infected individuals and this infection may go unrecognized by physicians in the U.S. when infections become symptomatic years later. Cutaneous infection is unlikely to be debilitating, though lesions may be disfiguring. Visceral leishmaniasis disease can cause severe febrile illness which typically requires hospitalization with convalescence over 7 days.

6.2.3 Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Unmitigated risk is moderate, but reduced to low with mitigation measures. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever occurs in rare cases (less than 0.1% per month attack rate in indigenous personnel) and is transmitted by tick bites or occupational contact with blood or secretions from infected animals. The disease typically requires intensive care with fatality rates from 5% to 50%.

6.2.4 Sandfly fever

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Sandfly fever has a Moderate risk with potential disease rates from 1% to 10% per month under worst case conditions. Mitigation measures reduced the risk to low. The disease is transmitted by sandflies and occurs more commonly in children though adults are still at risk. Sandfly fever disease typically resulted in debilitating febrile illness requiring 1 to 7 days of supportive care followed by return to duty.

6.2.5 Sindbis (and Sindbis-like viruses)

Low: Sindbis and sindbis-like viruses are maintained in a bird-mosquito cycle in rural areas and occasionally caused limited outbreaks among humans. The viruses are transmitted by a variety of *Culex* mosquito species found primarily in rural areas. A variety of bird species may serve as reservoir or amplifying hosts. Extremely rare cases (less than 0.01% per month attack rate) could have occurred seasonally (April - November). Debilitating febrile illness often accompanied by rash, typically requires 1 to 7 days of supportive care; significant arthralgias may persist for several weeks or more in some cases. This disease is associated with a low health risk estimate.

6.2.6 Rickettsioses, tickborne (spotted fever group)

Low: Rare cases (less than 0.1% per month) of rickettsioses disease are possible among personnel exposed to tick bites. Rickettsioses are transmitted by multiple species of hard ticks, including *Rhipicephalus* spp., which are associated with dogs. Other species of ticks, including *Ixodes* are also capable of transmitting rickettsial pathogens in this group. In addition to dogs, various rodents and other animals also may serve as reservoirs. Ticks are most prevalent from April through November. Incidents can result in debilitating febrile illness, which may require 1 to 7 days of supportive care followed by return to duty. The health risk of rickettsial disease is Low.

6.2.7 Typhus-murine (fleaborne)

Low: Typhus-murine has a Low risk estimate and is assessed as present, but at unknown levels. Rare cases are possible among personnel exposed to rodents (particularly rats) and flea bites. Incidents may result in debilitating febrile illness typically requiring 1 to 7 days of supportive care followed by return to duty.

6.2.8 West Nile fever

Low: West Nile fever is present. The disease is maintained by the bird population and transmitted to humans via mosquito vector. Typically, infections in young, healthy adults were asymptomatic although fever, headache, tiredness, body aches (occasionally with a skin rash on trunk of body), and swollen lymph glands can occur. This disease is associated with a low risk estimate.

6.2.9 Short -term health risks:

Low: The unmitigated risk is moderate for leishmaniasis - cutaneous (acute), Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and sandfly fever; Low for, sindbis, rickettsioses-tickborne, typhus-fleaborne, and West Nile fever. No hazard from malaria (2008 - 2011). Risk is reduced to Low by proper wear of the uniform and application of repellent to exposed skin. Confidence in the risk estimate is high.

6.2.10 Long -term health risks:

Low: The unmitigated risk is moderate for leishmaniasis-visceral (chronic). Risk is reduced to Low by proper wear of the uniform and application of repellent to exposed skin. Confidence in the risk estimate is high.

6.3 Water Contact Diseases

Tactical operations or recreational activities that involve extensive contact with surface water such as lakes, streams, rivers, or flooded fields may result in significant exposure to leptospirosis and schistosomiasis. Arid portions of Iraq without permanent or persistent bodies of surface water do not support transmission of leptospirosis or schistosomiasis. Risk was restricted primarily to areas along rivers and lakes. These diseases can debilitate personnel for up to a week or more. Leptospirosis risk typically increases during flooding. In addition, although not specifically assessed in this document, bodies of surface water are likely to be contaminated with human and animal waste. Activities such as wading or swimming may result in exposure to enteric diseases including diarrhea and hepatitis via incidental ingestion of water. Prolonged water contact also may lead to the development of a variety of potentially debilitating skin conditions including bacterial or fungal dermatitis. Mitigation strategies were in place and included avoiding water contact and recreational water activities, proper wear of uniform (especially footwear), and protective coverings for cuts/abraded skin.

6.3.1 Leptospirosis

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Human infections occur seasonally (typically April through November) through exposure to water or soil contaminated by infected animals and is associated with wading, and swimming in contaminated, untreated open water. The occurrence of flooding after heavy rainfall facilitates the spread of the organism because as water saturates the environment leptospirosis present in the soil passes directly into surface waters. Leptospirosis can enter the body through cut or abraded skin, mucous membranes, and conjunctivae. Infection may also occur from ingestion of contaminated water. The acute, generalized illness associated with infection may mimic other tropical diseases (for example, dengue fever, malaria, and typhus), and common symptoms include fever, chills, myalgia, nausea, diarrhea, cough, and conjunctival suffusion. Manifestations of severe disease can include jaundice, renal failure, hemorrhage, pneumonitis, and hemodynamic collapse. Recreational activities involving extensive water contact may result in personnel being temporarily debilitated with leptospirosis. This disease is associated with a Moderate health risk estimate.

6.3.2 Schistosomiasis

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Humans are the principal reservoir for schistosomes; humans shed schistosome eggs in urine or feces. Animals such as cattle and water buffalo may also be significant reservoirs. Rare cases (less than 0.1% per month attack rate) may occur seasonally (typically April through November) among personnel wading or swimming in lakes, streams, or irrigated fields which were frequently contaminated with human and animal waste containing schistosome eggs. In groups with prolonged exposure to heavily contaminated foci, attack rates may exceed 10%. Exceptionally heavy concentrations of schistosomes may occur in discrete foci, which were difficult to distinguish from

less contaminated areas. In non-immune personnel exposed to such foci, rates of acute schistosomiasis may be over 50%. Mild infections are generally asymptomatic. In very heavy acute infections, a febrile illness (acute schistosomiasis) may occur, especially with *Schistosoma japonicum* and *S. mansoni*, requiring hospitalization and convalescence over 7 days. This disease is associated with a Moderate health risk estimate.

6.3.3 Short -term health risks:

Low: Unmitigated Health risk of schistosomiasis and leptospirosis is Moderate during warmer months. . Mitigation measures reduce the risk to Low. Confidence in the health risk estimate is high.

6.3.4 Long -term health risks:

None identified based on available data.

6.4 Respiratory Diseases

Although not specifically assessed in this document, deployed U.S. forces may be exposed to a wide variety of common respiratory infections in the local population. These include influenza, pertussis, viral upper respiratory infections, viral and bacterial pneumonia, and others. The U.S. military populations living in close-quarter conditions are at risk for substantial person-to-person spread of respiratory pathogens. Influenza is of particular concern because of its ability to debilitate large numbers of unvaccinated personnel for several days. Mitigation strategies were in place and included routine medical screenings, vaccination, enforcing minimum space allocation in housing units, implementing head-to-toe sleeping in crowded housing units, implementation of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when necessary for healthcare providers and detention facility personnel.

6.4.1 Tuberculosis (TB)

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Potential health risk to U.S. personnel is Moderate, mitigated to Low, year round. Transmission typically requires close and prolonged contact with an active case of pulmonary or laryngeal TB, although it also can occur with more incidental contact. The Army Surgeon General has defined increased risk in deployed Soldiers as indoor exposure to locals or third country nationals of greater than one hour per week in a highly endemic active TB region. Additional mitigation included active case isolation in negative pressure rooms, where available.

6.4.2 Meningococcal meningitis

Low: Meningococcal meningitis poses a Low risk and is transmitted from person to person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions. Close and prolonged contact facilitates the spread of this disease. Meningococcal meningitis is potentially a very severe disease typically requiring intensive care; fatalities may occur in 5-15% of cases.

6.4.3 Short-term health risks:

Low: Moderate (TB) to Low (for meningococcal meningitis). Overall risk was reduced to Low with mitigation measures. Confidence in the health risk estimate is high.

6.4.4 Long-term health risks:

None identified based on available data. Tuberculosis is evaluated as part of the post deployment health assessment (PDHA). A TB skin test is required post-deployment if potentially exposed and is based upon individual service policies.

6.5 Animal-Contact Diseases

6.5.1 Rabies

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Rabies posed a year-round moderate risk. Occurrence in local animals was well above U.S. levels due to the lack of organized control programs. Dogs were the primary reservoir of rabies in Iraq, and a frequent source of human exposure. In June 2008, the New Jersey Health department in The United States reported a confirmed case of rabies in a mixed-breed dog recently imported from Iraq. Rabies is transmitted by exposure to the virus-laden saliva of an infected animal, typically through bites, but could occur from scratches contaminated with the saliva. No cases of rabies acquired in Iraq have been identified in U.S. Service members to date. The vast majority (>99%) of persons who develop rabies disease will do so within a year after a risk exposure, there have been rare reports of individuals presenting with rabies disease up to six years or more after their last known risk exposure. Mitigation strategies included command emphasis of CENTCOM GO 1B, reduction of animal habitats, active pest management programs, and timely treatment of feral animal scratches/bites.

6.5.2 Anthrax

Low: Anthrax cases are rare in indigenous personnel, and pose a Low risk to U.S. personnel. Anthrax is a naturally occurring infection; cutaneous anthrax is transmitted by direct contact with infected animals or carcasses, including hides. Eating undercooked infected meat may result in contracting gastrointestinal anthrax. Pulmonary anthrax is contracted through inhalation of spores and is extremely rare. Mitigation measures included consuming approved food sources, proper food preparation and cooking temperatures, avoidance of animals and farms, dust abatement when working in these areas, vaccinations, and proper PPE for personnel working with animals.

6.5.3 Q-Fever

Moderate, mitigated to Low: Potential health risk to U.S. personnel is Moderate, but mitigated to Low, year round. Rare cases are possible among personnel exposed to aerosols from infected animals, with clusters of cases possible in some situations. Significant outbreaks (affecting 1-50%) can occur in personnel with heavy exposure to barnyards or other areas where animals are kept. Unpasteurized milk may also transmit infection. The primary route of exposure is respiratory, with an infectious dose as low as a single organism. Incidence could result in debilitating febrile illness, sometimes presenting as pneumonia, typically requiring 1 to 7 days of inpatient care followed by return to duty. Mitigation strategies in place as listed in paragraph 6.5.2 except for vaccinations.

6.5.4 H5N1 avian influenza

Low: Potential health risk to U.S. personnel is Low. Although H5N1 avian influenza (AI) is easily transmitted among birds, bird-to-human transmission is extremely inefficient. Human-to-human transmission appears to be exceedingly rare, even with relatively close contact. Extremely rare cases (less than 0.01% per month attack rate) could occur. Incidence could result in very severe illness with fatality rate higher than 50 percent in symptomatic cases. Mitigation strategies included avoidance of birds/poultry and proper cooking temperatures for poultry products.

6.5.5 Short-term health risks:

Low: The short-term unmitigated risk is Moderate for rabies, and Q-fever, to Low for anthrax, and H5N1 avian influenza. Mitigation measures reduced the overall risk to Low. Confidence in risk estimate is high.

6.5.6 Long-term health risks:

Low: A Low long term risk exists for rabies because, in rare cases, the incubation period for rabies can be several years.

7 Venomous Animals

All information was taken directly from *Creatures of Kirkuk, An Entomology Guide* as cited in Reference 11. The species listed below were observed at Kirkuk AB and vicinity, and may present a health risk if they are encountered by personnel. See Section 9 for more information about pesticides and pest control measures.

7.1 Spiders

- *Sparassidae* and *Lycosidae*: Mild envenoming only, not likely to prove lethal.

7.2 Scorpions

- *Androctonus crassicauda* (black scorpion): Severe envenoming possible and potentially lethal, however most stings cause only severe local pain.
- *Leiurus quinquestriatus*: Severe envenoming possible and potentially lethal, however most stings cause only severe local pain.
- *Scorpio maurus*: Mild envenoming only, not likely to prove lethal.

7.3 Snakes

- *Cerastes gasperettii*: Potentially lethal envenoming, though unlikely.
- *Echis carinatus sochureki*: Moderate to severe, potentially lethal envenoming.
- *Pseudocerastes persicus*: Envenoming causes strong hemorrhagic activity. Lethality of venom is unknown.
- *Macrovipera lebetina* subspecies *euphratica* and subspecies *obtusa*: Severe envenoming possible, potentially lethal.
- *Walterinnesia aegyptia*: Clinical effects unknown, but potentially lethal envenoming, though unlikely, cannot be excluded.

7.4 Short-term health risk:

Low: If encountered, effects of venom vary with species from mild localized swelling (e.g. *S. maurus*) to potentially lethal effects (e.g. *Echis carinatus sochureki*). See effects of venom above. Mitigation

strategies included avoiding contact, proper wear of uniform (especially footwear), and timely medical treatment. Confidence in the health risk estimate is low (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

7.5 Long-term health risk:

None identified.

8 Heat/Cold Stress

8.1 Heat

Summer season (June - September) monthly mean daily maximum temperatures range from 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 109 °F with an average temperature of 105 °F based on historical climatological data. The health risk of heat stress/injury based on temperatures alone is Low (< 78 °F) from November – March, Moderate (78-81.9°F) in April, and extremely high (≥ 88°F) from May – October. However, work intensity and clothing/equipment worn pose greater health risk of heat stress/injury than environmental factors alone (Reference 5). Managing risk of hot weather operations included monitoring work/rest periods, proper hydration, and taking individual risk factors (e.g. acclimation, weight, and physical conditioning) into consideration. Risk of heat stress/injury was reduced with preventive measures

8.1.1 Short-term health risk:

Low to Extremely High, mitigated to Low: The risk of heat injury was reduced to low through preventive measures such as work/rest cycles, proper hydration and nutrition, and monitoring Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). Risk of heat injury in unacclimatized or susceptible populations (older, previous history of heat injury, poor physical condition, underlying medical/health conditions), and those under operational constraints (equipment, PPE, vehicles) is Extremely High from May – October, Moderate in April, and Low from November – March. Confidence in the health risk estimate is low (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

8.1.2 Long-term health risk:

Low: The long-term risk is Low. However, the risk may be greater for certain susceptible persons—those older (i.e., greater than 45 years), in lesser physical shape, or with underlying medical/health conditions. Long-term health implications from heat injuries are rare but may occur, especially from more serious injuries such as heat stroke. It is possible that high heat in conjunction with various chemical exposures may increase long-term health risks, though specific scientific evidence is not conclusive. Confidence in these risk estimates is medium (Reference 8, Table 3-6).

8.2 Cold

8.2.1 Short-term health risks:

Winter season (December - March) mean daily minimum temperatures range from 39 °F to 46 °F with an average temperature of 42 °F based on historical climatological data. Because even on warm days a significant drop in temperature after sunset by as much as 40 °F can occur, there is a risk of cold stress/injury. The risk assessment for Non-Freezing Cold Injuries (NFCI), such as chilblain, trench foot, and hypothermia, is Low based on historical temperature and precipitation data. Frostbite is unlikely to occur because temperatures rarely drop below freezing. However, personnel may encounter significantly lower temperatures during field operations at higher altitudes. As with heat stress/injuries,

cold stress/injuries are largely dependent on operational and individual factors instead of environmental factors alone.

Low: The health risk of cold injury is Low. Confidence in the health risk estimate is medium.

8.2.2 Long-term health risk:

Low: The health risk of cold injury is Low. Confidence in the health risk estimate is high

9 Noise

9.1 Continuous

Noise hazards at K-1 Airbase were marked with signage, baffling devices were used at noise sources, and hearing protection was used (Reference 13). Noise hazards at Dibbis Dam were marked with signage and hearing protection was used (References 14 and 15). Noise hazards at Kirkuk AB were marked with signage and hearing protection was used (Reference 16).

9.1.1 Short and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from continuous noise.

9.2 Impulse

No specific hazard sources were documented in the DOEHS or MESL from the 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011 timeframe.

9.2.1 Short-term and Long-term health risks:

Not evaluated.

10 Unique Incidents/Concerns

10.1 Potential environmental contamination sources

DoD personnel are exposed to various chemical, physical, ergonomic, and biological hazards in the course of performing their mission. These types of hazards depend on the mission of the unit and the operations and tasks which the personnel are required to perform to complete their mission. The health risk associated with these hazards depends on a number of elements including what materials are used, how long the exposure last, what is done to the material, the environment where the task or operation is performed, and what controls are used. The hazards can include exposures to heavy metal particulates (e.g., lead, cadmium, manganese, chromium, and iron oxide), solvents, fuels, oils, and gases (e.g., carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, and oxides of sulfur). Most of these exposures occur when performing maintenance task such as painting, grinding, welding, engine repair, or movement through contaminated areas. Exposures to these occupational hazards can occur through inhalation (air), skin contact, or ingestion; however exposures through air are generally associated with the highest health risk.

10.2 Waste Sites/Waste Disposal

Solid wastes from K-1 Airbase were hauled off site (Reference 13). Solid wastes from Dibbis Dam were hauled off site and burned as needed (Reference 14). Solid wastes from Kirkuk AB were hauled

to FOB Warrior for disposal (Reference 16) or burned in an open burn pit (Reference 11). Medical waste from Kirkuk AB was hauled off site by a local national contractor for incineration at an off-site hospital (Reference 11). Wastewater at Kirkuk AB was piped and trucked to an on-site sludge treatment plant (Reference 11).

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from exposure to waste.

10.3 Fuel/petroleum products/industrial chemical spills

No specific hazard sources were documented in the DOEHS or MESL from the 22 May 2003 through 10 October 2011 timeframe.

10.4 Pesticides/Pest Control:

The health risk of exposure to pesticide residues is considered within the framework of typical residential exposure scenarios, based on the types of equipment, techniques, and pesticide products that have been employed, such as enclosed bait stations for rodenticides, various handheld equipment for spot treatments of insecticides and herbicides, and a number of ready-to-use (RTU) methods such as aerosol cans and baits. The control of rodents required the majority of pest management inputs, with the acutely toxic rodenticides staged as solid formulation lethal baits placed in tamper-resistant bait stations indoors and outdoors throughout cantonment areas. Nuisance insects, including biting and stinging insects such as bees, wasps, and ants, also required significant pest management inputs. Use of pesticides targeting against these pests generally involved selection of compounds with low mammalian toxicity and short-term residual using pinpoint rather than broadcast application techniques. No specific hazard sources were documented in DOEHS or MESL. For each pesticide product applied during this period, the EPA approved label has been archived, providing a framework how each pesticide handled and applied (see below).

10.4.1 Rodenticides

Brodifacoum, bromadiolone, polybutylenes, and polyisobutylenes were used to control rodents.

10.4.2 Insecticides

Insecticides used to control ants, bees, cockroaches, crickets, flies, gnats, millipedes, mosquitoes, sand flies, scorpions, silverfish, spiders, and wasps included: (S)-methoprene, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*, bromadiolone, cypermethrin, d-trans allethrin, fipronil, hydramethylnon, lambda-cyhalothrin, methomyl, nithiazine, phenothrin, piperonyl butoxide, polybutylenes, polyisobutylenes, pyrethrins, resmethrin, β -cyfluthrin, and Z-9 tricosene.

10.4.3 Herbicides

Glyphosate was used to control weeds.

10.4.4 Snakes

Naphthalene, sulfur, and bromadiolone were used to control snakes.

10.4.5 Short-term and Long-term health risks

Insufficient data were available to characterize risk from exposure to pesticides.

10.5 Asbestos

Host nation facilities at Kirkuk AB were believed to contain asbestos containing material. Military personnel were not engaged in activities that resulted in destruction of asbestos containing material so exposure is unlikely (Reference 11).

10.6 Lead Based Paint

Host nation facilities at Kirkuk AB were believed to contain lead based paint. Military personnel were not engaged in activities that resulted in destruction of lead based paint materials so exposure is unlikely (Reference 11).

10.7 Burn Pit

While not specific to Kirkuk AB and vicinity, the consolidated epidemiological and environmental sampling and studies on burn pits that have been conducted as of the date of this publication have been unable to determine whether an association does or does not exist between exposures to emissions from the burn pits and long-term health effects (Reference 6). The committee's review of the literature and the data suggests that service in Iraq or Afghanistan (i.e., a broader consideration of air pollution than exposure only to burn pit emissions) may be associated with long-term health effects, particularly in susceptible (e.g., those who have asthma) or highly exposed subpopulations, such as those who worked at the burn pit. Such health effects would be due mainly to high ambient concentrations of PM from both natural and anthropogenic sources, including military sources. If that broader exposure to air pollution turns out to be relevant, potentially related health effects of concern are respiratory and cardiovascular effects and cancer. Susceptibility to the PM health effects could be exacerbated by other exposures, such as stress, smoking, local climatic conditions, and co-exposures to other chemicals that affect the same biologic or chemical processes. Individually, the chemicals measured at burn pit sites in the study were generally below concentrations of health concern for general populations in the United States. However, the possibility of exposure to mixtures of the chemicals raises the potential for health outcomes associated with cumulative exposure to combinations of the constituents of burn pit emissions and emissions from other sources.

10.7.1 PM_{2.5}

10.7.1.1 Exposure Guidelines:

Short Term (24-hour) PM_{2.5} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$):

- Negligible MEG = 65
- Marginal MEG = 250
- Critical MEG = 500

Long-term (1year) PM_{2.5} MEGs ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$):

- Negligible MEG = 15
- Marginal MEG = 65.

10.7.1.2 Sample data/Notes:

A total of three valid PM_{2.5} air samples were collected near burn pits or incinerators at Kirkuk AB and vicinity in 2008. The range of 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentrations was 109 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ – 226 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with an average concentration of 168 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

10.7.1.3 Short-term and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data was available to characterize risk from PM_{2.5}. Daily average health risk levels for PM_{2.5} showed low health risk for these three samples. Confidence in the short-term PM_{2.5} health risk assessment was low (Reference 9, Table 3-6).

10.7.2 Airborne Metals

10.7.2.1 Sample data/Notes:

A total of three valid PM_{2.5} airborne metal samples were collected near burn pits or incinerators at Kirkuk AB and vicinity in 2008. Airborne metals in PM_{2.5} were not detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

10.7.2.2 Short-term and long-term health risks:

Insufficient data were available to characterize risk from PM_{2.5} metals.

10.7.3 VOCs and SVOCs

10.7.3.1 Sample data/Notes:

A total of eight valid VOC and SVOC air samples were collected near burn pits or incinerators at Kirkuk AB and vicinity in 2008. VOCs and SVOCs were not detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

10.7.3.2 Short-term and long-term health risks:

None identified based on the available sampling data.

10.7.4 Soil Samples

10.7.4.1 Sample data/Notes:

A total of five soil samples were collected near burn pits or incinerators at Kirkuk AB and vicinity from 23 June 2003 to 28 September 2010. No chemicals were detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

10.7.4.2 Short and long-term health risks:

None identified based on the available sampling data. No chemicals were detected in levels above the short-term or long-term MEGs.

11 References¹

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11. Air Force Institute for Operational Health, Deployed Environmental Surveillance Branch. Environmental Health Site Assessment Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. April 2006.
12. Department of the Air Force, 506th Air Expeditionary Group. Continuity Document for Radiofrequency Radiation. Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. 16 April 2005.

¹ NOTE. The data are currently assessed using the 2013 TG230. The general method involves an initial review of the data which eliminates all chemical substances not detected above 1-yr negligible MEGs. Those substances screened out are not considered acute or chronic health hazards so are not assessed further. For remaining substances, acute and chronic health effects are evaluated separately for air water (soil is only evaluated for long term risk). This is performed by deriving separate short-term and long term population exposure level and estimates (referred to as population exposure point concentrations (PEPC)) that are compared to MEGs derived for similar exposure durations. If less than or equal to negligible MEG the risk is Low. If levels are higher than negligible then there is a chemical-specific toxicity and exposure evaluation by appropriate SMEs, which includes comparison to any available marginal, critical or catastrophic MEGs. For drinking water 5 L/day MEGs are used for the screening while site specific 5-15 L/day are used for more detailed assessment. For nondrinking water (such as that used for personal hygiene or cooking) the 'consumption rate' is limited to 2 L/day (similar to the EPA) which is derived by multiplying the 5 L/day MEG by a factor of 2.5. This value is used to conservatively assess non drinking uses of water.

13. Department of the Army, Charlie Company, 10th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. 1st BCT Preventive Medicine Assessment Results and Recommendations- K-1. 28 January 2008.
14. 1st Infantry Division. Preventive Medicine Base Camp Assessment- Dibis, Iraq. 22 April 2004.
15. 25th Infantry Division. Preventive Medicine Base Camp Assessment- Dibis, Iraq. 5 December 2004.
16. 1st Infantry Division. Preventive Medicine Base Camp Assessment- Kirkuk, Iraq. 19 July 2004.

12 Where Do I Get More Information?

If a provider feels that the Service member's or Veteran's current medical condition may be attributed to specific OEH exposures at this deployment location, he/she can contact the Service-specific organization below. Organizations external to DoD should contact Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight (HRP&O).

Army Public Health Center Phone: (800) 222-9698. <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/>

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) (formerly NEHC) Phone: (757) 953-0700. <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Pages/Home.aspx>

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) (formerly AFIOH) Phone: (888) 232-3764. <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/711hpw/usafsam/>

DoD, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight (HRP&O) Phone: (800) 497-6261. <http://fhpr.dhhq.health.mil/home.aspx>