Cancer Study: Cancer Diagnosis and Mortality among Military Aviators and Aviation Support Personnel

WHAT IS THIS STUDY?
A “Study on the Incidence of Cancer Diagnosis and Mortality among Military Aviators and Aviation Support Personnel” was conducted from July 2021 to April 2022. **THIS LONG-TERM, TWO-PART STUDY IS CURRENTLY IN PHASE 1.**

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE PHASE 1 STUDY?
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AIRCREW AND GROUND CREW WERE OVERALL MORE LIKELY TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER BUT LESS LIKELY TO DIE FROM CANCER THAN THE U.S. POPULATION. Health records from 156,050 aircrew and 737,891 ground crew who served from 1992 to 2017 were analyzed. The survey included military members from all services (Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines).

**AIRCREW** had an 87% higher rate of melanoma, 39% higher rate of thyroid cancer, 16% higher rate of prostate cancer, and a 24% higher rate of cancer for all sites combined.

**GROUND** crew had a higher incidence of cancers of the brain and nervous system (by 19%), thyroid (by 15%), melanoma (by 9%), kidney and renal pelvis (by 9%), and of all sites combined (by 3%).

WHAT’S NEXT?
Phase 1B of the first study is ongoing and will include Veterans Affairs and cancer registry data from at least 40 States. Phase 2 of the study will investigate and identify the specific occupational and environmental risk factors associated with the increased risk of the cancers identified in the Phase 1 study.

LEARN MORE:
The Department of Defense remains committed to the health and safety of our men and women in uniform, their families, and the communities in which we serve. To learn more about the study, visit health.mil/CancerStudy