



**MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD
HEADQUARTERS 127TH WING (ACC)
SELFRIDGE ANG BASE, MICHIGAN**

13 Aug 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Selfridge Employees and Patrons

FROM 127WG/CC

SUBJECT: Legionnaires Disease at Selfridge

- 1) In mid-July, TACOM leadership noticed a spike in employees reporting illness associated with two specific buildings (bldgs 325 and 326) at Selfridge. As more information was gathered through Army command channels, Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein, TACOM commander, and his staff immediately began to coordinate with the 127th Wing to address the various issues surrounding these reports. They made the decision to relocate the Army employees of the facilities to other areas, and contracted to thoroughly sanitize both facilities, including a complete disinfection of a cooling tower at building 325.
- 2) The U.S. Army Public Health Command was called in to assist the local staff of both commands. The CDC was also invited to augment the multi-disciplinary team investigating the outbreak, which included representatives from the 127th Medical Group, Military Medical Readiness and Occupational Health Center- Detroit Arsenal, and the Michigan Community Health Department. The team has been lead by Mr. John Ambrose, an epidemiologist with the U.S. Army Public Health Command.
- 3) For several weeks now, this multi-disciplinary team has been investigating the source of legionnella bacteria which has left six government employees here with confirmed cases of Legionnaire's disease. No new confirmations of the disease have been reported since early last week. The team has now significantly narrowed the scope of their investigation.
- 4) The ongoing investigation has attempted to identify and interview all individuals with a disease caused by legionnella bacteria in an area at Selfridge suspected as the cause of the outbreak. Employees were interviewed, common exposures were noted, and differences in how employees who worked in the same areas have and have not been sick were tracked. Also, environmental samples, such as water and air, from places thought to be the source of the legionnella were collected. Conclusive laboratory test results have not yet been received but are expected in the near future.
- 5) At this time, the public health team will be departing to conclude their analysis of the collected pieces with a projected return in the next few weeks to provide more recommendations to us. They are confident they have the necessary pieces to solve this puzzle and that we will soon be able to return our TACOM tenants to work in buildings 325 and 326. The team has also assisted the 127th Wing with creating a preventative maintenance plan to limit the chance for legionnella bacteria returning to facilities at the base.
- 6) If you have further questions about the recent events here associated with the Legionnaire's disease outbreak, log on to www.127wg.ang.af.mil/legionnaires.asp. for more information. If you have other questions or health-related concerns, please feel free to contact the 127th Public Health Office at ext. 5872.

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MICHAEL L. PEPLINSKI, Brig. Gen., MI ANG
Commander