



# **U.S. Department of Defense: Actions and Rationale for the Charge Questions**

**Open Session for the Red Hill Ad Hoc Committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine**

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February 20, 2025

# Defense Health Agency Efforts

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- Collaborating and Coordinating with Partners
- Independent Health Registry
- Healthcare Provider Education and Training
- Public Health Communications and Outreach
- Internal Analyses
- Red Hill Clinic (Branch Health Clinic Makalapa, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam)
  - Military Health System beneficiaries
  - Secretarial Designation (authorizing evaluation for non-TRICARE individuals)



*Improving Health and Building Readiness. Anytime, Anywhere — Always*



# Challenges

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- Unique environmental exposure.
- Extrapolation from water sampling to individualized exposure assessments.
- Mobile population.
- Some are not Military Health System beneficiaries.
- Low utilization of the Red Hill Clinic.
- Regardless of study weaknesses, bottom line of survey results: Persistent reported morbidity in a subset of the population.
- Prevalence of fuel-related morbidity remains unknown.



# Charge Questions

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1. What are the long-term risks to human health from the November 2021 JP-5 fuel release at Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility that contaminated the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water distribution system?
2. What are possible causes for the persistent and complex symptoms among some individuals exposed to the JP-5?
3. What types of clinical surveillance, if any, should primary care providers be offering their patients who were exposed to the JP-5?
4. What types of laboratory testing, if any, should primary care providers be conducting now on their patients who were exposed to the JP-5?
5. How can the Defense Health Agency improve care for patients who were exposed to the JP-5?





# **U.S. Department of Defense: Rationale for the Charge Questions**

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