

# Military Special Operations Family Collaborative

## CANCER IN SPECIAL OPERATIONS

### UPCOMING STUDY ON CANCER IN SOF

USSOCOM will soon be conducting a study to:

- Better understand incidence of cancer among the special operations population
- Characterize the cancer cases within the formation
- Determine if/what additional screening, second opinion, and treatment options may be warranted for impacted service members

Anecdotal experience in special operations and within supporting nonprofit communities seems to indicate an increased risk of cancer in special operations. This is counter to the findings of the only official study into cancer incidence in SOF conducted in 2016, which found “no increased risk.” USSOCOM is in the process of developing the questions for a new study, with results anticipated by summer 2023. **MSOFC is collecting the contact information of current and former special ops service members and family members impacted by a cancer diagnosis who are interested in potentially sharing their story for the USSOCOM study [here](#).**

In addition to this study, USSOCOM continues to strive to improve the documentation and mitigation of environmental and occupational exposures which occur while carrying out critical missions around the world in support of our national defense. Among these efforts are ongoing work with lead abatement, K2 assessment, Joint Health Risk Management, and Warfighter Brain Health.

### ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE NOW

- Join the following Veterans Administration registries as appropriate:
  - [Depleted Uranium Registry](#)
  - [Chemical Warfare Agent Registry](#)
  - [Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)
- Practice [healthy habits](#): fitness, nutrition, sleep, control alcohol intake, avoid tobacco products, and mitigate stress.
- Pursue proactive [cancer screenings](#) with your primary care manager.
- Learn about the [PACT Act](#) and toxic exposure screening.

You can learn more about relevant resources through MSOFC's online searchable resource directory, Connecting SOF, going live in January 2023.

If you are a special operations family member impacted by a cancer diagnosis, please reach out to [home@msofc.org](mailto:home@msofc.org) to be connected with nonprofit partners who can help you seek care & support.

***This resource is intended to support the needs of USSOCOM; however, it does not reflect an endorsement by USSOCOM or the Department of Defense.***

