

Subject: **A Heads Up on Asbestos Exposure**

Sirs, Ma'ams, Ladies & Gents,

I am presently seconded to the Defence Safety Remediation Task Force (DSRTF), which was originally set up specifically to follow up on the asbestos exposure incident at the Armidale UNE Depot (see DEFGRAM 132/2003).

The more research we are doing into the whole issue of asbestos exposure, however, the more we are becoming aware of other possible exposure of ADO personnel over the years that has gone undetected and/or unreported. For example anyone who served at 1SD, 2SD, 2SD Det D Dubbo or 1CAMD has almost inevitable had exposure to some extent if they ever worked in or around the old WWII storehouses. Also everyone who served in East Timor will be aware of the smashed asbestos sheeting that was strewn round Dili.

Without wishing to alarm anyone, **I suggest that everyone review their Service or APS history, and consider registration with the Defence Asbestos Registration Service (1800 000 655) if appropriate.** This is only precautionary, but, like early registration of hearing loss with Vets Affairs, makes any subsequent administrative action that much easier. As the F111 Deseal/Reseal Advocacy Team at AMB have found, it is sometimes difficult to pin-point possible exposure years after the event.

Again, this is not an alarmist knee-jerk, and the chances of any long term medical problems are very small indeed. (The specialist medical estimate on Armidale are that of the 3500+ personnel possibly exposed, between 1 and 8 may eventually contract an asbestos-related disease). This is just some in-house advice based on our current DSRTF research. If anyone wants further information, please call me on Ext 68285 or e-mail me.

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