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Outline:

- Introductions
- Failure of Risk Communication
- What has been completed?
 - Physical Health
 - Mental Health
 - Occupational Health
- Why?
- What have we found?
- What is the way ahead?



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Failure of Health Risk Communication:

- Essential Components are Trust & Perception
- Crewmembers AND families
- Failure on both counts
- This Town hall is a belated attempt to build trust
- Perception has been colored by media to fill the “vacuum of medical information”

- **My fault**



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What has been done?

- Medical Support provided at CFB Halifax
 - Topnotch
 - Better than available to civilians
- More robust than provided to Afghanistan veterans
- Medical Team met the boat in Faslane
- Medical Screening carried out under advice of Occupational Health Specialists
- Specific medical tests completed
- Physical exams and tests completed at 0, 3 and 12 months on everyone
- Following this, those with problems identified and followed accordingly
- Medical specialists agree with this approach



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Findings?

- Significant numbers complained of short-term respiratory symptoms
- Fewer have had long-term respiratory problems



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Mental Health Support

- A mental health team (psychiatrist, social worker, chaplain) met the crew in Faslane
- Education provided regarding Operational Stress Injuries
- Initial interviews
- Phone interviews repeated at 1-month
- Mental Health evaluations completed again at 3, 12 months
- Follow-up as required on person to person basis



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Findings?

- Significant numbers have sought help and been diagnosed with operational stress injury.



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What other resources are available?

- CF Consultant in Submarine Medicine
- Second Opinion from CF healthcare professional?
- CF Membership Assistance Program
 - 24/7 & 365 days per yr
 - Anonymous, Family Counseling, 8 sessions
 - **1-800-268-7708**
- CF Social Workers
 - Family Counseling
- CF Chaplains
- Operational Stress Injury Social Support Network
 - Dave McArdle: 902-426-7328
 - Nadine de Blois: 902-292-0353



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Health Risk Assessment:

- Occupational Health experts met the boat in Faslane
- Air sampling, swipe tests and soot samples taken
- Initial health risk assessment was released Dec 2005
- Initial presentation to crew in Feb 2005
- Long wait for “fire combustion study” by National Research Council (NRC)
- NRC completed study in the fall 2007
- Recently analyzed by Occupational Health specialists
- Peer-reviewed by non-DND experts
- Dr Tsekrekos will present results



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The Way Ahead?

- VAdm Robertson and RAdm Maddison have requested that the CF Health Services institute a monitoring process to identify unexpected medical findings amongst the crew
 - Combination CF/VAC initiative
- Details need to be worked out
- Scientific study requiring follow-up of crewmembers on a periodic basis (every 5 years?)
- Will require your cooperation to maintain contact with the CF and authorizing access to medical records
- Is this too intrusive?



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Thank You