



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HQ WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER (AFMC)  
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE GEORGIA

### MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: 78 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: Policy Letter Regarding Fogging/Spraying For Insect Control

1. This policy establishes procedures regulating the practice of fogging/spraying (i.e. hereafter referred to as fogging) for the control of mosquitos and other flying insects on Robins Air Force Base.
2. The Secretary of the Air Force has ordered all installations to reduce their usage of pesticides by 50 percent from the 1993 baseline by 30 September 2000. At Robins, a Pesticide Use Integrated Process Team (IPT) and a Pesticide Use Reduction Plan were developed to address this issue during FY96. Since then, pesticide use has been reduced by 81 percent, thus exceeding the mandated reduction two years ahead of schedule. The majority of this reduction can be attributed to a recent decrease in regularly scheduled fogging for the control of mosquitos and other flying insects, and a greater emphasis on the use of surveillance data to direct the need for fogging. However, the 78 CES Pest Management Shop (PM) has received guidance directing it to initiate regularly (i.e. "preventative") scheduled fogging once again (see attachment 1). Consequently, PM was cited for a violation of pesticide use regulations during this year's Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) inspection (see attachment 2). "Preventative" fogging is inappropriate, because fogging has no residual effect (i.e. it only knocks down flying insects—it does not prevent the development of larvae, nor does it stop the invasion of recently sprayed areas by flying insects from adjoining areas). Furthermore, re-instituting scheduled fogging operations will certainly reverse the progress Robins has made in reducing its dependence on pesticides.
3. The timing, location, and duration of fogging operations at Robins will be determined based on surveillance data collected by the Public Health Office (PH), as detailed in DoDI 4150.7, *Pest Management Program*, and AFI 48-102, *Medical Entomology Program*, and as defined in the process known as Integrated Pest Management. PH will make recommendations to PM regarding the initiation of fogging for the control of mosquitos in areas of the installation where trap counts or counts via other appropriate sampling techniques exceed a pre-determined trigger number (see attachment 3).
4. For nuisance flying insects such as deer flies, horse flies, and gnats, PH will implement a surveillance program, when needed, and will make recommendations to PM regarding the control of these species as outlined in AFI 48-102. PM shall not initiate measures to control nuisance flying insects until those measures have been approved by the installation Natural Resources Manager.

5. Fogging will only be conducted when surveillance data justify its need.
6. The IPT will meet annually to review pesticide use procedures at Robins, and to monitor the progress the installation has made toward achieving and maintaining the required reduction in pesticide usage.
7. All organizations and contractors who utilize pesticides or monitor their usage will review the Pesticide Use Reduction Plan, and ensure its recommendations, if feasible, are implemented. The use of environmental control strategies to eliminate insect breeding sites will be the preferred method of insect control (see attachment 4).

JAMES J. MECSICS  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachments:

1. Memo for record – 18 Mar 97
2. ECAMP finding – 12 Jun 98
3. Memo for WR-ALC/EM – 4 May 98
4. Memo for 78 CEG/CEOOU – 23 Feb 98

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