**Background:** Last fall,Army senior leaders directed IMCOM and installation leaders to inspect Army housing, barracks and child care facilities – including ARNG and USAR facilities – with an emphasis on life, health and safety, and with a focus on mold.

Between November 2022 and January 2023, leaders inspected all active Army barracks, child care facilities, and Army-owned family housing (67,859 facilities). Of those facilities, 97% were mold-free and those that had mold were immediately remediated to standard. USAR completed 100% of its barracks inspections in February 2023, and all life, health and safety issues were immediately resolved. The ARNG has completed the majority of its inspections. The active component and USAR developed and are currently executing plans to correct all of their identified hazards.

IMCOM began implementing a comprehensive and enduring plan to inform and educate Soldiers, families and civilians on how they can help counter the presence of mold in Army facilities before the summer, when heat and humidity increase risk.

During a Counter-Mold Workshop held Jan. 10-12, 2023, IMCOM assembled industry and health care experts, DoD partners and garrison leadership to implement strategies to inform communities, prevent and mitigate mold, and assist efforts to train and certify inspectors and remediation teams at all Army installations.

This counter-mold effort is informed by Army public health experts and grounded in the Defense Centers for Public Health-Aberdeen’s (formerly known as the Army Public Health Center) “[Technical Guide 277, Army Mold Remediation Guidance](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TG277FINAL28Feb2019.pdf#search=Technical%20Guide%20277%2C%20Army%20Mold%20Remediation%20Guidance)” and “[Technical Guide 278, Mold Assessment Guide](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TG278.pdf#search=Technical%20Guide%20278%2C%20Mold%20Assessment%20Guide).” IMCOM applies the Army’s definition of hazardous mold and the Army’s mitigation/remediation guidance. IMCOM employs Army public health standards to develop, train and certify all mold inspectors and government remediation teams who responsively identify, mitigate and eradicate mold.

Soldiers, families and civilians are asked to photograph and document suspected mold by registering and reporting it through [AMC Login - ArmyMaintenance.com](https://www.armymaintenance.com/arma). A certified inspector will respond within one business day. If a hazardous condition is identified, a certified mitigation and remediation team (government or contracted) will appropriately contain, isolate and eliminate the hazardous condition according to Army public health standards. A helpful guide with facts about mold and strategies to prevent mold growth can be found on the DCPH-A [Mold & Indoor Air Quality](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/workplacehealth/ih/Pages/Indoor-Air-Quality-Mold.aspx#InformationforServiceMembersFamiliesCiviliansContractors-0) web page: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/workplacehealth/ih/Pages/Indoor-Air-Quality-Mold.aspx>.

Privatized housing companies are following a similar approach and are safely relocating families while remediation occurs. A certified government inspector will validate that no hazardous conditions exist before allowing a structure to fully reopen.

**Leader Quotes:** “In our Army, it’s about People First, and the care and quality of life for our Soldiers and their families is always forefront in our minds. We’re investing in our barracks and housing to give our Soldiers and families the quality of life that’s equal to the quality of their service.” – Gen. James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army

“Our purpose is to proactively eliminate threats to life, health and safety from mold and improve the quality of life for people in Army facilities. This will allow IMCOM, Army Materiel Command and the Army to reinforce the Army’s commitment to quality facilities and investment in our Army Soldiers, families and civilians.” – Lt. Gen. Omar Jones IV, Commander of Army Installation Management Command

“We've got a common standard for how we remediate it, and then we apply that same standard when the team comes back in to inspect after remediation to make sure we are being consistent in how we are addressing this across all the installations.” – Lt. Gen. Omar Jones IV, commander of Army Installation Management Command

**Holding Statement:** “The Army’s Installation Management Command is implementing a comprehensive and enduring plan to inform and educate Soldiers, families and civilians on how they can help counter the presence of mold in Army facilities before the summer, when mold presents the highest risk to our people, formations and facilities.”

**Holding Statement on What Has Been Done Recently:** “Quality housing and facilities for Soldiers, family members and the civilian workforce is one of the Army’s top priorities. To accomplish this,Army senior leaders directed Army Installation Management Command and installation leaders to inspect all Army housing, barracks and child care facilities – including Army National Guard and Army Reserve facilities – with an emphasis on life, health and safety. Between November 2022 and January 2023, leaders inspected all active Army barracks, child care facilities and Army-owned family housing (67,859 facilities). Of those facilities, 97% were mold-free, and those that had mold were immediately treated. In addition, the U.S. Army Reserve completed 100% of its barracks inspections in February 2023, and all life, health and safety issues were immediately resolved. The Army National Guard has completed the majority of its inspections. The active component and USAR developed and are currently executing plans to correct all of their identified hazards.”

**Topline Messages:**

* This is about taking care of our people – the Army’s number-one priority. The health and welfare of our Soldiers, civilians and families is the foundation of Army readiness.
* Learning to properly identify, report and mitigate mold improves the confidence of our people in their housing and in the facilities where they work and train. It is everyone’s responsibility to be aware of mold and to learn how to identify it, report it and eliminate it.
* Army leaders at all echelons continue to take charge by enforcing standards and maintaining the focus on this health hazard. With appropriate notice and consent, leaders routinely visit housing, barracks and other facilities.

**Questions and Answers:**

**Q1: How do we define mold?**

**A1:** Mold is a naturally occurring, microscopic fungal growth that can spread on indoor and outdoor

surfaces. Mold can live in all environments, climates and seasons, but requires oxygen,

moisture and a nutrient source to grow. The type of mold and its abundance in a given area depend on temperature and on the availability of water and nutrients. The latter can be found in dirt. Mold can grow well on cardboard, ceiling tiles, paper and wood products.

**Q2: To date, what has been done to remediate mold issues?**

**A2:** Last fall, Army senior leaders directed IMCOM and installation leaders to inspect Army facilities with an emphasis on life, health and safety, and with a focus on mold. Between November 2022 and January 2023, leaders inspected all active Army barracks, child development centers and Army-owned family housing (67,859 facilities). Ninety-seven percent of facilities were mold-free, and those that had mold were immediately remediated to standard. In addition, IMCOM held a Counter-Mold Workshop Jan. 10-12, 2023, with health care professionals, industry experts, DoD partners and garrison leadership to implement strategies to inform communities and to prevent and mitigate mold. This effort was informed by the Army’s public health experts and grounded in the Defense Centers for Public Health-Aberdeen’s (formerly known as the Army Public Health Center) “[Technical Guide 277, Army Mold Remediation Guidance](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TG277FINAL28Feb2019.pdf#search=Technical%20Guide%20277%2C%20Army%20Mold%20Remediation%20Guidance)” and “[Technical Guide 278, Mold Assessment Guide](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TG278.pdf#search=Technical%20Guide%20278%2C%20Mold%20Assessment%20Guide).” IMCOM draws its definition of hazardous mold and its mitigation/remediation standards from these publications. IMCOM and Army garrison commanders employ Army public health standards to develop, train and certify all responding mold inspectors and government remediation teams.

**Q3: Of the buildings where mold was found, how many were barracks and housing? Will Soldiers and families be displaced during remediation?**

**A3:** Between November 2022 and January 2023, 67,859 facilities were inspected. Ninety-seven percent of facilities were mold-free, and the others were immediately remediated to standard. Soldiers and families are safely relocated while remediation occurs. A certified government inspector will validate that no hazardous conditions exist before allowing the structure to fully reopen.

**Q4: What does mold remediation entail?**

**A4:** Remediation plans will vary depending on the extent of the damage. Smaller, isolated areas consisting of less than 10 square feet of visible mold can generally be remediated by either housing staﬀ or tenants. Larger areas of visible mold may require experienced professional mold remediation teams. During remediation, the moldy area will be contained to prevent the mold from spreading to other areas. All surfaces will be cleaned.

**Q5: To date, of the buildings affected, how many have begun and/or have completed remediation? How much has this effort cost?**

**A5:** Approximately 3% of the 67,859 buildings inspected had evidence of mold. Individual installation teams executed immediate remediation using existing installation resources.

**Q6: Will the Army release the full inspection results?**

**A6:** This will be determined after all components complete their inspections and remediation efforts, and after the Army assesses outcomes.

**Q7: How will the Army enable its personnel to protect against and prevent mold in the future?**

**A7:** Identified Soldiers will attend a Mold Assessment and Remediation in Buildings training course, which will teach industry-standard mold remediation practices that Soldiers can bring back to their units. Following a 100-question exam at the end of the course, participants will be awarded a Mold Inspector/Remediator certification. As part of the training, participants will be taught about the key variables that allow mold colonization to happen. They will receive hands-on experience with specialized tools and equipment to inspect, identify, and remediate mold. The instruction will emphasize that prevention plans are essential to ensure that major mold issues do not occur.

**Q8: Is the Army treating all mold as if it were hazardous or toxic?**

**A8:** Army public health guidelines are based on the size of an affected area to make it easier for remediators to select the appropriate treatment. When in doubt, caution is advised.

**Q9: In addition to training inspectors, how will this program be governed to ensure that it remains effective in preventing and detecting mold? Is there going to be a new policy?**

**A9:** The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Housing and Partnerships will review and assess all outcomes from the inspections and remediation efforts, and will determine whether policy updates are required.

**Q10: If Soldiers reside in a barracks building that is known to have mold, are they entitled to any additional health benefits or consideration? Is there a registry anywhere?**

**A10:** U.S. Army Medical Command established a [Housing Environmental Health Response Registry](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/housing/Pages/HEHRR.aspx) to address concerns about Army family housing and related health issues.

**Coordinated with:**

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment)

Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (Installations)

U.S. Army Materiel Command

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

Defense Centers for Public Health-Aberdeen

Office of the General Counsel

**Prepared by:**

Matt Ahearn, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Media Relations Division