



# FACT SHEET

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Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)  
**Deployment Health Support Directorate**

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## Deseret Test Center

### Watch Dog

Shortly after President Kennedy's inauguration in 1961, the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, directed that a total review of the U.S. military be undertaken. The study consisted of 150 separate projects. The chemical and biological warfare review was known as Project 112. As part of the Project 112 review, the Joint Chiefs of Staff convened a working committee that recommended a research, testing, and development program for chemical and biological weapons. To oversee this program, the Deseret Test Center was established at Fort Douglas, Utah, in 1962. Both land-based and ship-based tests were conducted during the period 1962 – 1973. The Deseret Test Center closed in 1973.

The main purpose of Watch Dog was to obtain viability decay rates of *Francisella tularensis* (wet and dry forms), *Serratia marcesens*, and *Escherichia coli*. and stabilized *Francisella tularensis* animal infectivity data in a summer temperate environment. Six trials were conducted to measure the infectivity to monkeys in temperate environments using wet *Francisella tularensis*. The remaining trials determined biological decay rates for *Francisella tularensis* (wet and dry), *Serratia marcesens* and *Escherichia coli* in an environment considered analogous to the temperate humid areas of the northern hemisphere during the summer.

All of the Watch Dog trials were conducted in the area of Delta Creek in central Alaska near Fort Greely. The test was conducted in the summer of 1967.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is providing this information, at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to assist the VA in providing healthcare services to qualified veterans and to assist veterans in establishing service connection for disability claims. The Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) collected this information from multiple sources and requested that the military services declassify it to allow its public distribution. The VA accepts this information provided on location, dates, units and/or ships, and substances involved in this exercise, which DHSD extracted from classified DoD records, and will provide it to individual veterans as necessary, but the VA cannot verify its accuracy.

<b>Test Name</b>	Watch Dog (DTC Test 67-8)
<b>Testing Organization</b>	US Army Deseret Test Center
<b>Test Dates</b>	Summer 1967
<b>Test Location</b>	Delta Creek area of central Alaska, near Fort Greely
<b>Test Operations</b>	To obtain biological decay rates on <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (wet and dry form), <i>Escherichia coli</i> , and <i>Serratia marcescens</i> in a summer temperate environment.
<b>Participating Services</b>	US Army, Deseret Test Center personnel
<b>Units and Ships Involved</b>	Not identified
<b>Dissemination Procedures</b>	Not Identified
<b>Agents, Simulants, Tracers</b>	<i>Bacillus globigii</i> <i>Serratia marcescens</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (wet) (TT) <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (dry) (ZZ)
<b>Ancillary Testing</b>	Not identified
<b>Decontamination</b>	Not identified
<b>Potential Health Risks Associated with Agents, Simulants, Tracers</b>	<u><i>Bacillus globigii</i> (BG)</u> Now considered to be <i>Bacillus subtilis var. niger</i> , a close relative of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , this bacterial species was used as a simulant and considered harmless to healthy individuals. <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and similar <i>Bacillus</i> species are common in the environment, and are uncommon causes of disease. They have been associated with acute infections of the ear, meninges (brain lining), urinary tract, lung, heart valve, bloodstream, and other body sites, but always or nearly always in individuals whose health has already been compromised. Long-term or late-

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developing health effects would be very unlikely (except perhaps as a complication of the acute infection).

(Sources: Tuazon CU, Other Bacillus Species (chap. 197), in Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 5th edition (vol. 2), ed., Mandell GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R, Churchill Livingstone, Philadelphia, 2000, p. 2220-6; US Environmental Protection Agency, Bacillus subtilis Final Risk Assessment, February 1997, available at <http://www.epa.gov> as of October 4, 2002.)

*Serratia marcescens* (SM)

This bacterial species can cause acute infections of the urinary tract, lung, bloodstream, and other body sites. These infections commonly occur in individuals whose health has already been compromised, and often in patients who are already hospitalized. Long-term or late-developing health effects would be very unlikely.

(Source: Eisenstein, Barry I., Zaleznik, Dori F., Enterobacteriaceae (chap. 206), in Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 5th edition (vol. 2), ed., Mandell GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R, Churchill Livingstone, Philadelphia, 2000, p. 2303.)

*Escherichia coli*, or *E. Coli* (EC)

This bacterial species is a common inhabitant of the digestive tract but can also cause acute infection, especially when it gains access to other body sites, like the urinary tract, lung, and bloodstream. Long-term or late-developing health effects of *E. coli* infection would be unlikely.

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*Francisella tularensis* (TT and ZZ)

Formerly identified as *Pasteurella tularensis*, this bacterial species can cause acute infection of the lung, bloodstream, and other body sites (tularemia), and is considered a potential biological warfare agent. While complications of the acute infection may be serious, even life threatening, long-term or late-developing health effects would be very unlikely.

(Sources: Cross, J. Thomas Jr., Penn, Robert L., *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia) (chap. 216), in Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 5th edition (vol. 2), ed., Mandell GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R, Churchill Livingstone, Philadelphia, 2000, p. 2393-2402; and Dennis DT, Inglesby TV, Henderson DA, et al. Tularemia as a biological weapon; medical and public health management. JAMA 2001;285(21):2763-73.)

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