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Pesticide May Pollute Military Base Housing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army Times and its companion newspapers reported in today's editions that thousands of families may have been exposed to pesticides while living in military housing.

Pentagon spokesman Bill Caldwell said the Defense Department is "studying the matter to determine whether or not we should commence a large scale inspection and monitoring program for military housing units."

The copyrighted story said the problem involves about 31,000 sets of quarters constructed over the last 25 years on concrete slab foundations with forced air heating and cooling ducts in or under the slabs.

The newspapers said the danger arises when the chemical chlordane is spread around the foundation, near the ducts, to control termites.

Caldwell said that use of chlordane in this particular type of housing was banned by the Defense Department on May 19, 1980.

