

Public comment
2/11/20
Sandra Sullivan

I would like your help with the ATSDR and get ALS records for South Patrick Shores - and 32937 - ref WWII debris - ALS is 60% higher among WWII vets and may be related to what is in these disposal sites. On the area of the highest concentration of material we have 3-4 cases of ALS. **This we now know has been going on for decades.** Both my husband and I have symptoms characteristic of early ALS. My appointment is the beginning of March with specialist.



RICHARD KREBS, whose bout with Lou Gehrig's disease left him in a wheelchair, was one of 100 people who came to Thursday's Satellite Beach meeting on the health effects of radar. **Story, 2B.**

State to study Gehrig's outbreak

By Marilyn Meyer
FLORIDA TODAY

Florida's chief epidemiologist will undertake a study of Lou Gehrig's disease in Brevard County within a year because the area has a high incidence of the disease.

Speaking Thursday at a meeting in Satellite Beach called to assess the situation, Richard Hopkins, head epidemiologist for state public health services, told 100 residents radar exposure will be one of several possible causes he will consider.

An investigation earlier this year by *Florida Today* found an

HEALTH

unusually high incidence of Lou Gehrig's disease in South Patrick Shores and other neighborhoods around Patrick Air Force Base.

Some residents suspect radar may be causing the disease.

Hopkins said he will look into the incidence of the disease, formally called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, throughout the entire county.

"I would first have to satisfy myself that there are enough people with ALS or surviving relatives that I could talk with to

justify the study," he said. "The larger the number of people, the better the chances of finding meaningful answers."

He said he would need at least 20 to 30 cases to pursue the study.

Hopkins was in charge of a 1981 study that looked at the incidence of Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the lymphatic system, in the South Patrick Shores area.

The study — prompted by a separate *Florida Today* study — looked at possible sources of chemical pollution that could have triggered the outbreak. No answers were found.

U.S. Rep. Jim Sacches, D-Melbourne, convened the forum at Sea Park Elementary School.

Also documented in newspaper articles, from the nineties is that breast cancer and cervical cancer has higher incidence. Please also get from the DOH the incidence rate in this area as this was identified then as issue. When I dug up the area in which the electric ice box was located for a week- I had tenderness in both breasts immediately following, swollen lymph nodes under arms, and a lump developed that week (which I still have). There was an immediate response.

RADAR, From 1A

First, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry studied an outbreak of Hodgkin's disease, a rare cancer of the lymphatic system, in the South Patrick area.

Experts said the radar was not the cause.

This year, a *Florida Today* investigation revealed that eight residents in a small South Patrick Shores neighborhood have developed Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, since 1980.

Statistically, perhaps one case of ALS could be expected in that size neighborhood in 13 years.

The area also has higher than average rates of breast and cervical cancer.

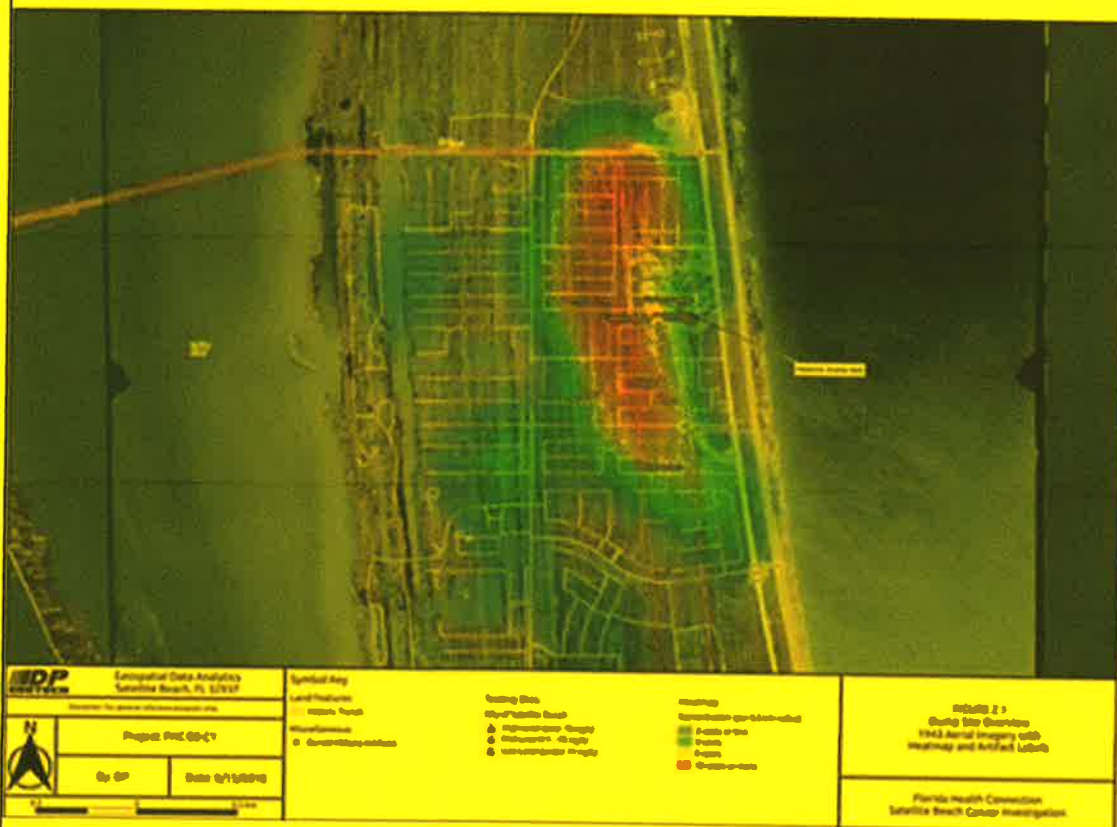
Again, officials have said there is no link between the radar and the disease.



Sandra Sullivan

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I'm really impressed with this visual by D.P. Braden as a visual speaks and conveys much more than words. "I've been asked by a lot of folks here to overlay the heatmap handed out at the meeting on the old aerial photos of the dump site, and I've also been asked to provide a key for what the colors in the heatmap mean. Both of those are excellent suggestions and so I've created several new and more detailed renderings. This one in particular is very interesting as it shows a higher concentration of reported cases around the historic dump site seen in the 1943 USDA aerial imagery. I've also included for reference the approximate locations of various artifacts found buried in the ground." My comment is -What I noticed is the large area where the elevation slopes to the west the red area is to the west of the dump as would be indicated by groundwater run-off. What concerns me also is the stormwater draining to the canals.



D.P. Willemin and 4 others

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Also research shows there are higher rates of cancer on and downgradient of the dump. Which is what caused us to look into this issue.