



Danny Sebeck's comments for 26 Oct 2024 AAFM National Meeting

- **(Advance to slide 3) Good morning, and thank you for inviting me to speak about my personal experience with missile related cancer and on behalf of the non-profit ICBM community advocacy foundation called the Torchlight Initiative.**
- **The views and opinions presented are my personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the DoD or its Components.**
- **The AF has left me to solve a few complex problems. The mystery of my own illness and that of my many friends.**
- **I have been wounded, and I will die from my wounds. My friends have been wounded and many have died. They are casualties of this Cold War and they deserve our time and attention. My friends and I are still in the fox hole, many others are coming to join us. Don't forget about us.**

- **I believe the threats represented today are valid, but they are only the most dangerous threats. While daunting and real, they are not likely. I will not speak to you today about machines and most dangerous threats that have an extremely low likelihood of occurring. I will speak to you about the actual threat that is killing your brothers and sisters in arms. I will tell you about this missile community and the people that stand together in the LFs and MAFs and down in the LCCs. These are the problems and challenges to our force that deserve our senior leaders' attention right now.**

- **While I'm wounded and I'm tired, I'm so tired, I'm not dead yet, and I have the great responsibility to speak for my dead and wounded Airmen.**

- **And I will tell you how the Torchlight Initiative is going to help defeat this threat.**

- **I believe we should face this brutal reality head on. We don't sweep problems, disproven tactics and weaknesses under the carpet. We drag them into the light, study them, analyze them, understand them, and then mitigate them so my fellow Airmen, your fellow Airmen don't suffer the consequences of the most likely threat we failed to acknowledge.**

- **I'm here in my personal capacity as a veteran with service-related non-Hodgkin Lymphoma/Terminal Mantle Cell Lymphoma.... I'm here with a bias toward action and with a loud voice because my voice must carry**

from my foxhole or my LF or my chemotherapy chair back to HQ.

Because I speak for the dead and sick missile community members who have been silenced. They are sick, and tired or already dead. I speak for their widows and for their children. For the Poteats, the Dohertys, the Kubalas, the Jennesses, the Broyles kids, the Spaduzzi family, for the Holmes kids and for Sarah, Lucas and Ada Sebeck. I'm also here to speak for the Lts and Amn in training at VSFB up the highway who don't yet understand the threat, and lastly, for those in our community who are wounded and don't know it yet.

- **The Torchlight Initiative is an accountability mechanism for those who would try to ignore, minimize, hide or neglect the issue of missile community cancers, illnesses and disorders.**

- **BL: We need to create an environment that mitigates unnecessary risk. One that doesn't contribute to our casualty rates. So we can focus on the enemy, instead of focusing on our own poorly sustained environment.**

- **(Continue with Slide 3) We remain committed to ensuring future missile community members serve under conditions that do not put their lives at unnecessary risk and that veterans and their families are afforded the benefits they deserve for their toxic exposures during military service.**

- **ICBM operations is not a casualty-free career field; we are taking losses not from an enemy capability but due to our own environmental hazards.**

Through building awareness, understanding the problem, and taking real action, we can mitigate the risk and influence earlier diagnoses to support better outcomes for our people and we can safely continue operating this system.

- **We owe that to our Airmen**
- **(Advance to Slide 4 with pic of families) We owe that to our families**
- **The Torchlight Initiative builds awareness by forcing the tough conversations about health issues within the ICBM community.**
- **Torchlight can and will remain an independent and unconstrained voice for the afflicted. We will do this together, and the Torchlight Initiative will continue to help lead the conversation and partner with those dedicated to making these necessary changes.**
- **(Advance to slide 5)**