## VII. Data Repository

Throughout the period of this investigation, data collection methods will be integrated by use of computer systems. A data repository will be established at the USAFSAM. Master files will be formed for each exposed member and for his matched control/controls. The individual master files will be keyed to one or more identifiers. Confidentiality of data will be maintained by the use of computer generated code numbers. Addresses and telephone numbers of all study subjects will be continually updated to insure proper follow-up.

Individual data items and their sources are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Questionnaire | a. Initial<br>b. Indepth interview (during physical examination)<br>c. Follow-up |
| (2) | Psychological Battery | a. Initial<br>b. Follow-up |
| (3) | Physical Examination | a. Initial<br>b. Follow-up |
| (4) | Medical Records | a. Active duty<br>b. VA<br>c. Civilian<br>d. Dependent |
| (5) | Historical Data | a. Military personnel files<br>b. Flight records<br>c. Military unit |
| (6) | Death Certificates and Autopsy Reports | a. Study members<br>b. Dependents |
| (7) | Birth Certificates | a. Dependents |

Mortality data will be obtained from individual medical records, VA records, the screening of personnel records, contact with family or personel physicians, and other available information sources. Date of death (verified by death certificate and available autopsy reports) will be obtained. Cause of death will be expressed as an ICDA number or numbers. The reliability of the mortality data coding will be evaluated by using a dual coding system based on underlying cause of death criteria in use by the National Center for Health Statistics. This will assure that the results of this study are compatible with data based on US mortality statistics. In addition to standard coding for the underlying cause of death, all diagnoses entered on the death certificates will be coded so that multiple cause of death analyses can be conducted.

The computer software for the data analysis phase will be prepared to assure proper data conversion, quality control and standardization of testmeasurements. Quality control areas will include verification of identification data, range checks, and identification/correction of ambiguous or conflicting data.