

A faded, light blue image of an F-16 fighter jet in flight, viewed from a high angle, with several missiles mounted under its wings. The jet is centered in the background of the slide.

F-16 Microbially Influenced Corrosion (MIC) Characterization & Prevention Study

**2011 Environment, Energy
Security & Sustainability
Symposium & Exhibition**

Abstract No. 12490

May 12, 2011

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Battelle**

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Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE 12 MAY 2011		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE F-16 Microbially Influenced Corrosion (MIC) Characterization & Prevention Study				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Battelle Columbus Operations,505 King Avenue,Columbus,OH,43201-2696				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at the NDIA Environment, Energy Security & Sustainability (E2S2) Symposium & Exhibition held 9-12 May 2011 in New Orleans, LA. U.S. Government or Federal Rights License					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 30	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			



Overview

- Project Team
- Background
- Technical Approach
- Aircraft Sampling
- Microbial Characterization
- MIC Testing - Technical Approach
- Results of MIC Testing
- Mitigation Assessment
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- Points of Contact
- Questions



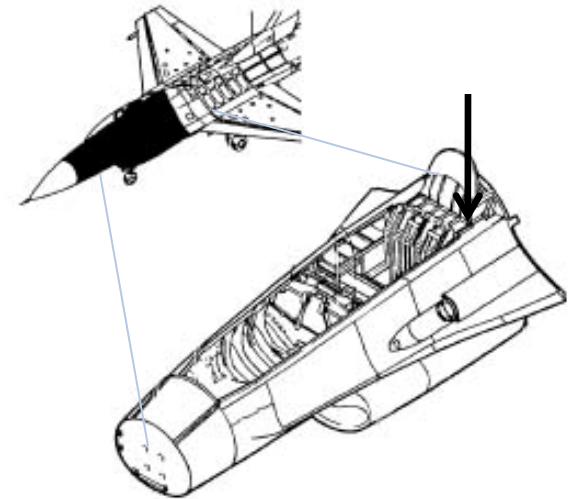
Project Team

- Primary Stakeholders – F-16 PO and 388th Fighter Wing
- COTR – Paul Hoth OO-ALC/GHBEX
- Program Manager – Jim Tankersley
- Principal Investigator – John Stropki
- NRL Consultant – Dr. Brenda Little
- Project Team – Dan Lorch, Annie Lane, Jill Gregory
- Additional Stakeholders
 - 508 ACSG/ENX
 - 809 MXSS/MXDEC
 - Operational Units
 - AFRL/RXBN
 - AFCPCO



Background

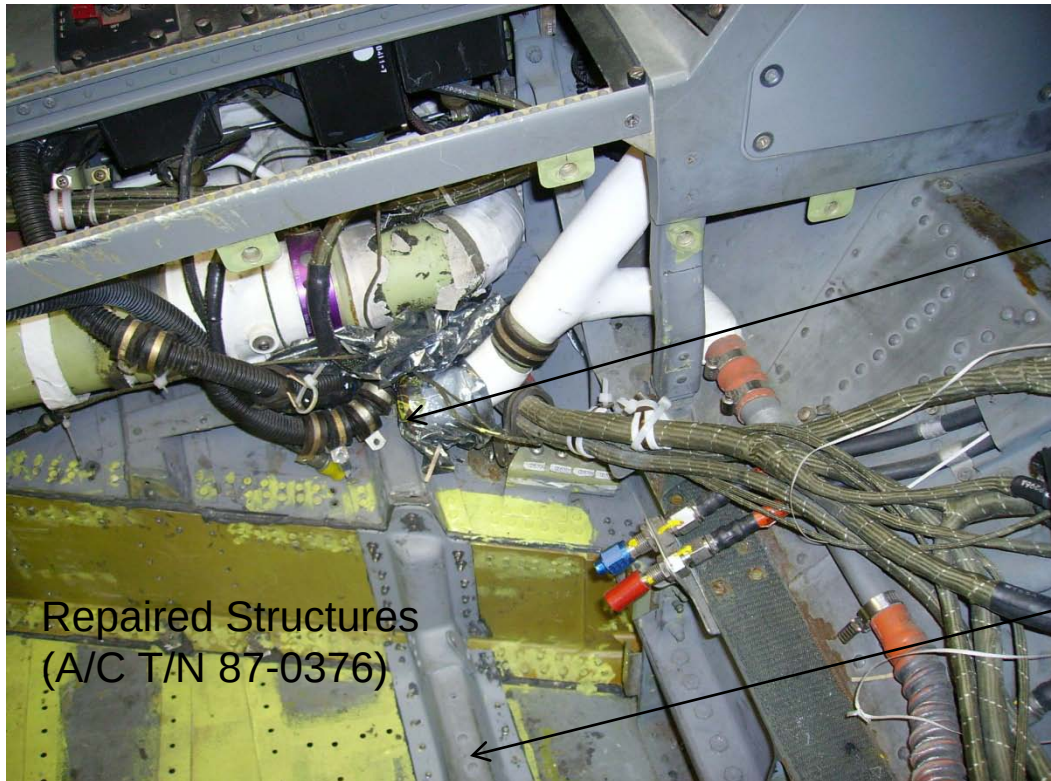
- Moisture routinely enters F-16 cockpit in different ways
 - open canopy, condensation, high humidity, Environmental Control System or ECS, etc...
- Moisture is absorbed and retained within insulation blankets used to seal lower walls and floor,
- No drain holes in aft cockpit area to remove moisture (F-16 B/D variants),
- Water collects and retained in low lying areas breaks down protective coating system and causes structural corrosion,
- Water and organic/inorganic nutrients support microbial growth.





Background (cont...)

- Hill AFB representatives at F-16 World Wide Review for TCG countries stated that aft cockpit corrosion has been discovered in ~65 percent of “B” and “D” models



Background (cont...)

- Most damage confined to pitting corrosion of primary and secondary support structures
- Pitting corrosion morphology (i.e., tunneling suggests MIC)





Technical Approach

- Work with F-16 PO and stakeholder team to evaluate the potential for MIC of aircraft structures:
 - Characterize microbial species collected from aircraft
 - Validate MIC damage mechanisms under environmental conditions expected within areas of aircraft
 - Identify and assess the effect of possible short- and long-term mitigation technologies:
 - Chemical disinfection
 - Biocidal treatments and/or coatings
 - Corrosion Preventative Compounds or CPCs
 - Dehumidification



Aircraft Sampling

Condemned F-16 Aft Cockpit Component Parts





Aircraft Sampling (cont.)

- Sixty-three samples collected from similar cockpit and OML locations (control samples) on six F-16 aircraft at Hill Air Force Base





Microbial Isolates Recovered

- Seventeen (17) different bacterial isolates and sixteen (16) fungal isolates recovered from the sixty-three surface samples collected from six F-16 aircraft, and nine F-16 off-aircraft component parts retrieved from aft cockpit area
- Compared microbial populations recovered from the aircraft and parts; looking for consistencies and differences of populations recovered from corroded versus non-corroded areas
- Compared microbial populations to MIC species reported in literature

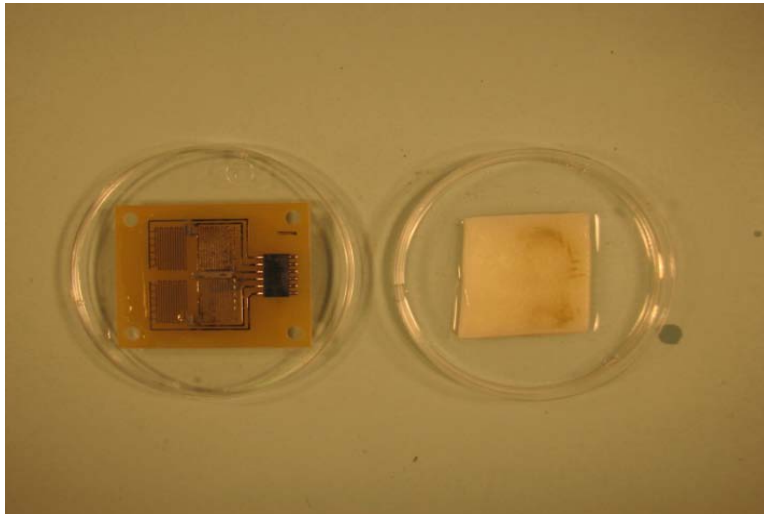
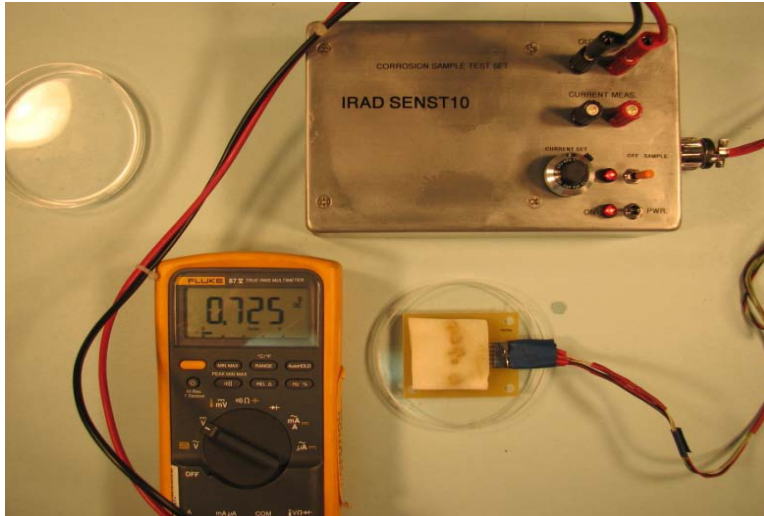


Test Matrix

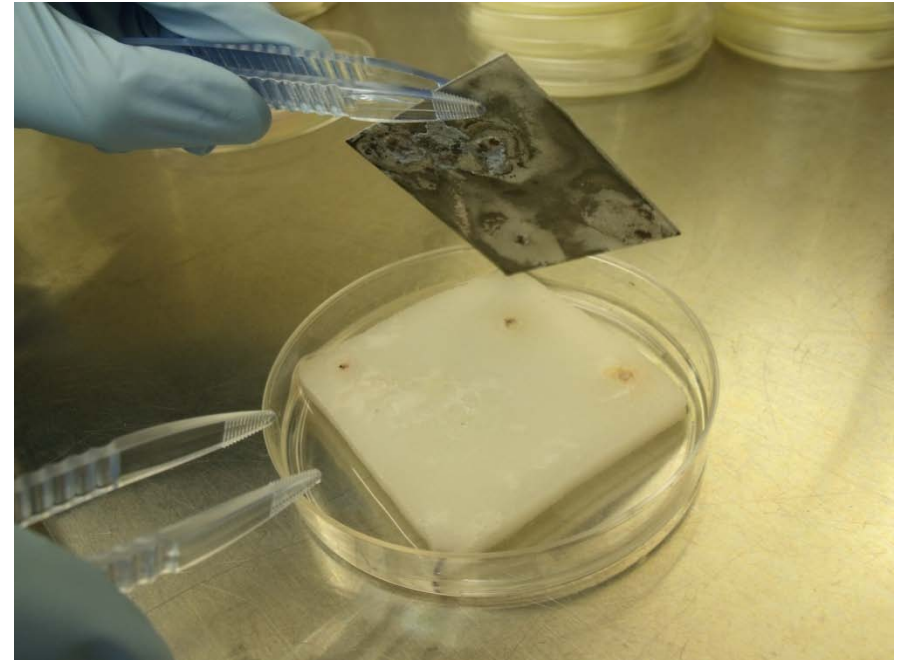
Parameter	Description
Coupon Type	2024-T3 aluminum alloy
Sensor Type	1020 low carbon steel
Incubation Conditions	26 ± 2C; 75-80% Rel. Humidity
Bacteria Consortium	<i>Microbacterium saperdae</i> <i>Rhodococcus equi</i> <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>
Fungal Consortium	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> <i>Penicillium oxalicum</i> <i>Rhodoturula sp.</i> <i>Trichoderma sp.</i>
Control Sensors and Coupons – Positive A	Dosed with microbes known to influence corrosion and used in a recent AFRL corrosion study: <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> <i>Delftia acidovorans</i> <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>
Control Sensors and Coupons – Positive B	Dosed with bleach, a corrosive agent
Control Sensors and Coupons – Negative	Dosed with buffer only (no microbes present)



Experimental Set-up



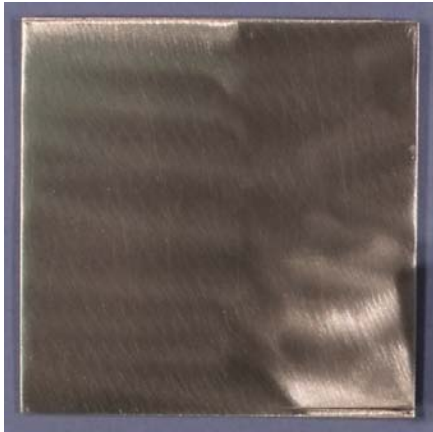
Battelle Corrosion Sensors



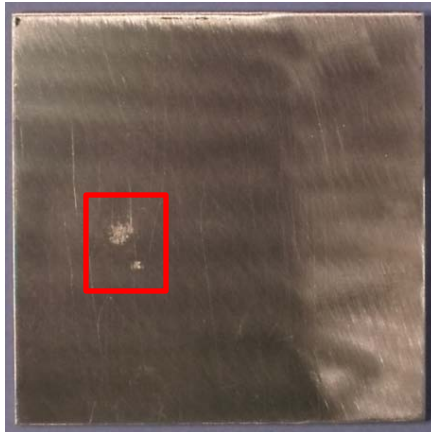
Weight-loss Coupons



Aluminum Coupon Results: 1-month Exposure, Descaled



Bacteria Consortia



Fungi Consortia



Combination



Buffer Only



Aluminum Coupon Results: 2-month Exposure, Descaled

Top



Bacteria Consortia



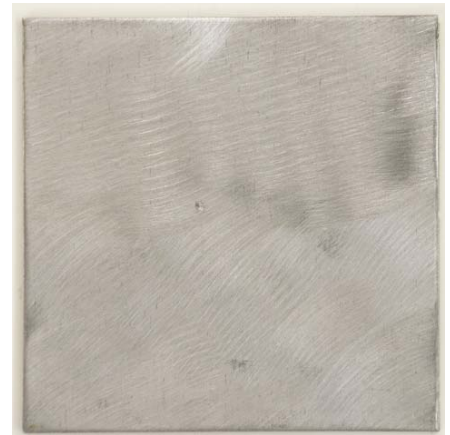
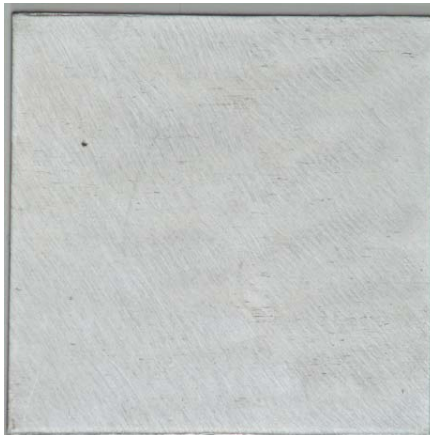
Fungi Consortia



Combination



Buffer Only



Bottom

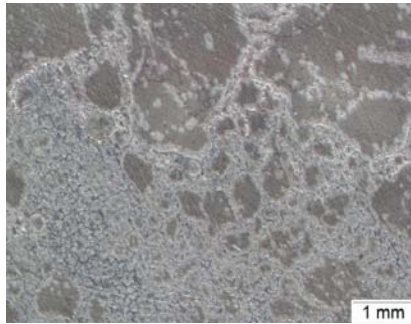


Al Coupon Results: 3 Month Exposure, Descaled - Optical Micrographs

Bacteria Consortia



Fungi Consortia



Combination

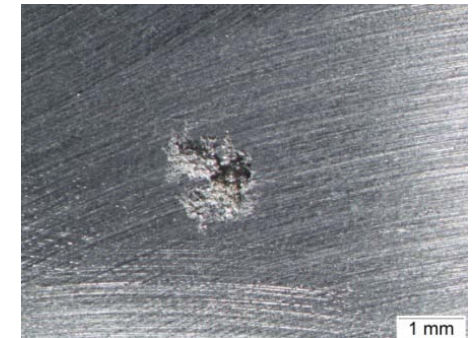


Buffer Only



Top

Bottom



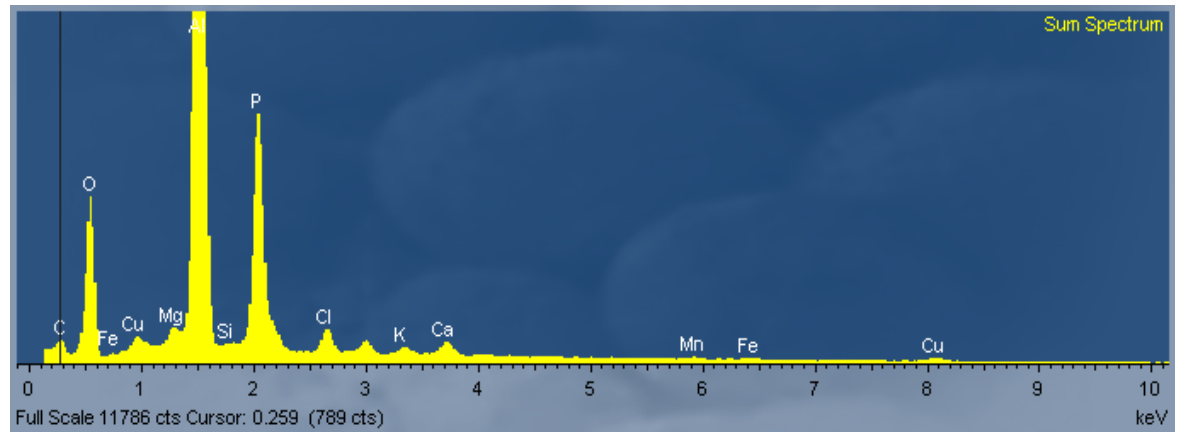
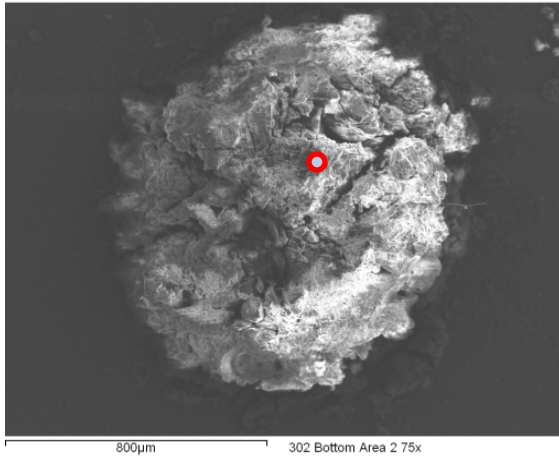


Aluminum Coupon Results: 3 Month Exposure, Wiped (Representative Samples)

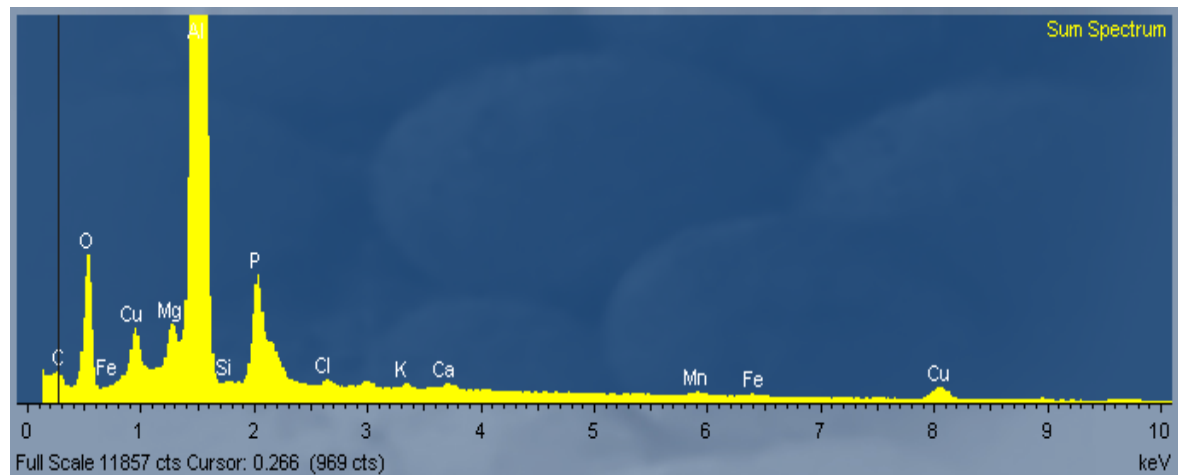
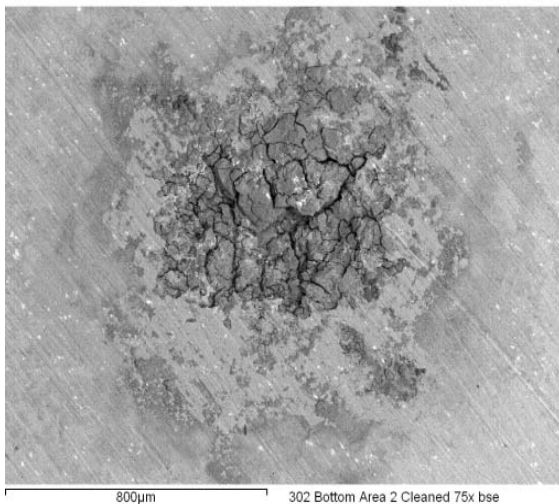
Coupon ID 302

Bacteria Consortia

As-tested



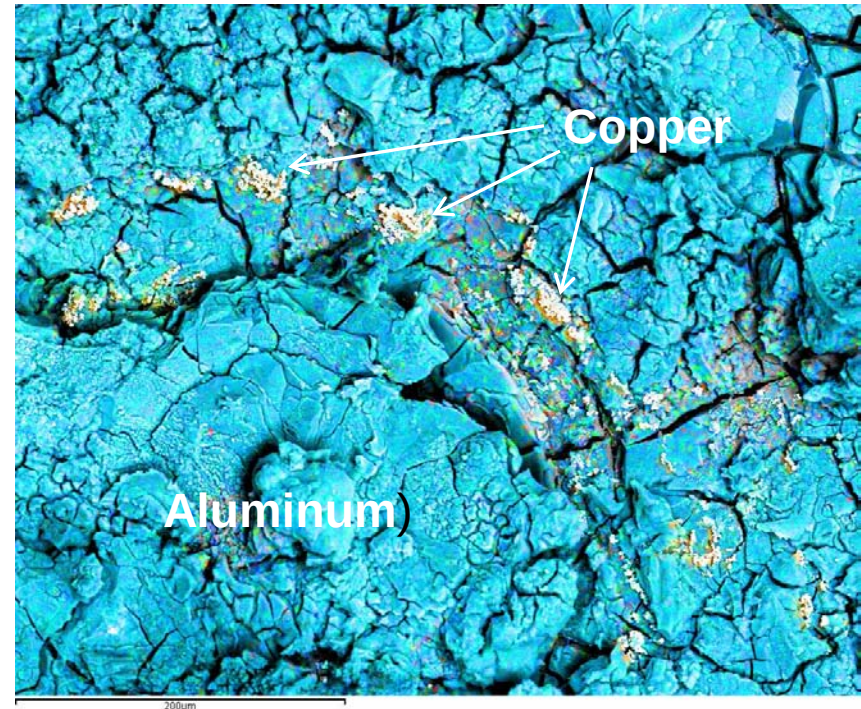
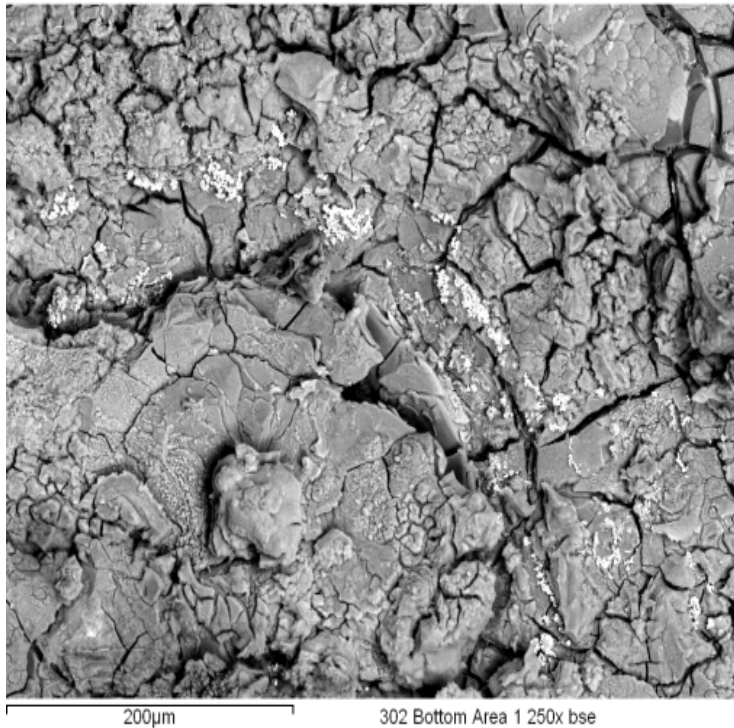
As-wiped





Aluminum Coupon Results: 3 Month Exposure, Cleaned (Representative Samples)

Coupon ID 302 Bacteria Consortia



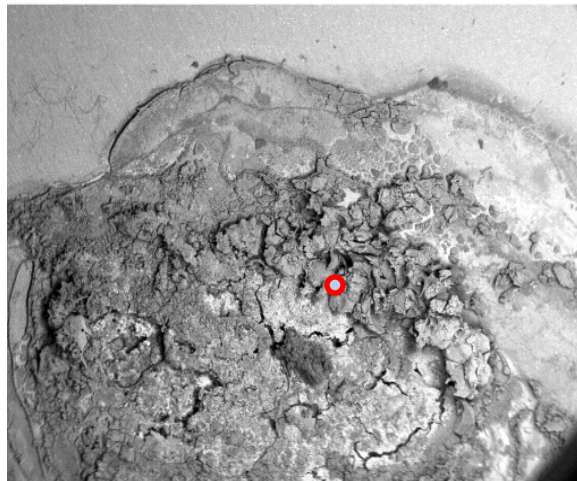
Dried biofilm and corrosion products inside pit area, with evidence of selective metal ion extraction or dealloying from metal or alloying networks



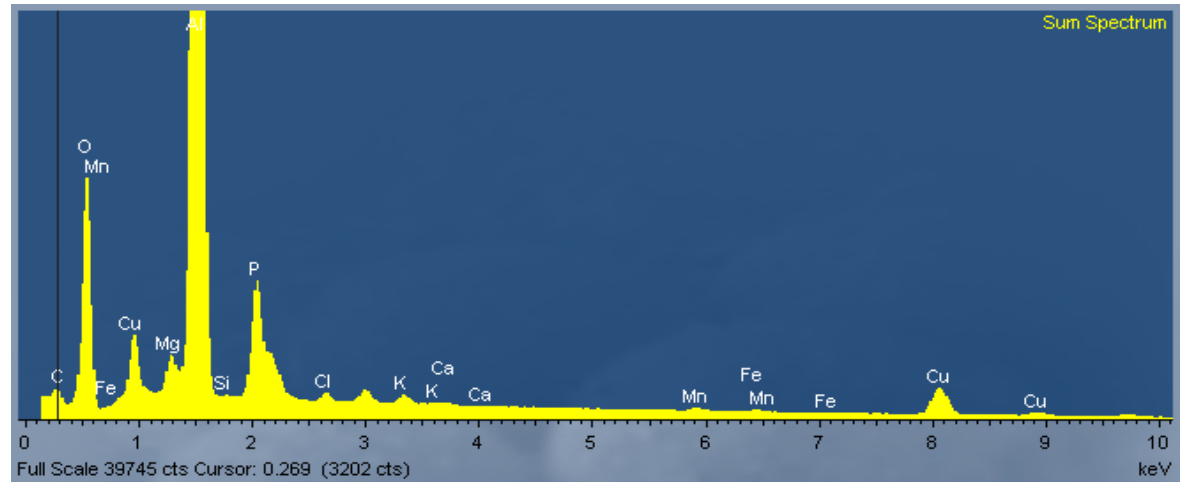
Aluminum Coupon Results: 3 Month Exposure, Wiped (Representative Sample)

Coupon ID 305 Fungi Consortia

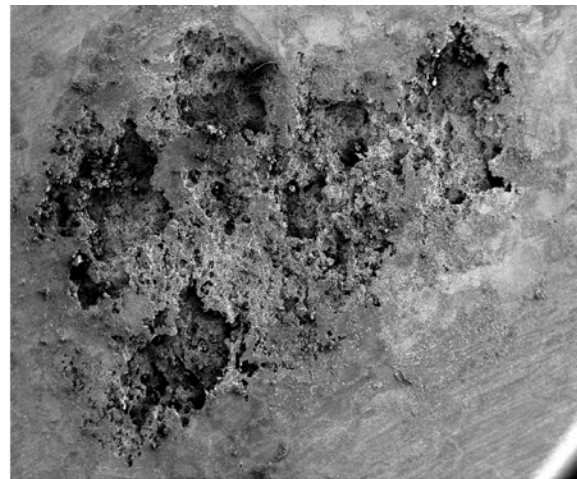
As-tested



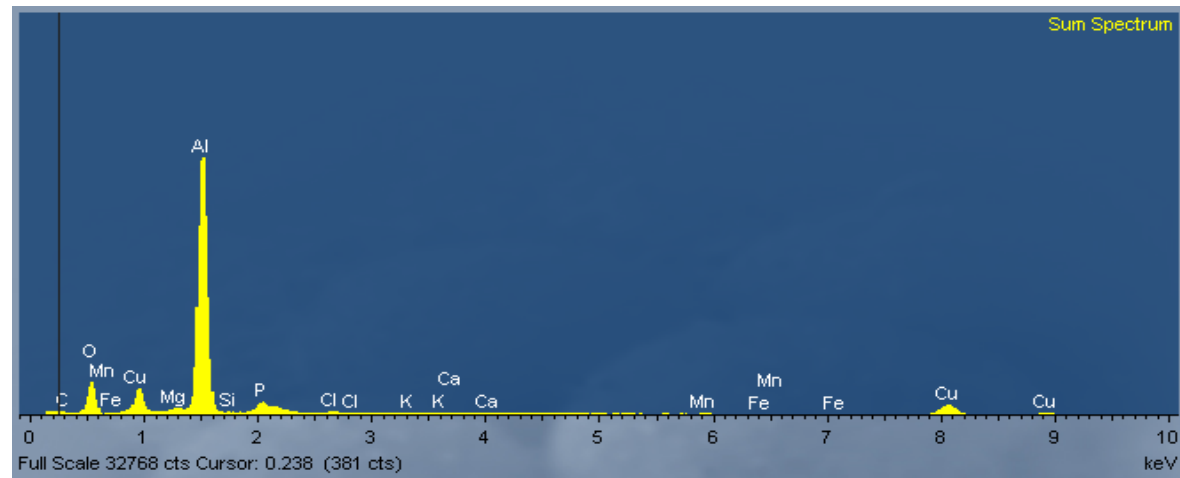
3mm 305 Bottom 20x 2



As-wiped



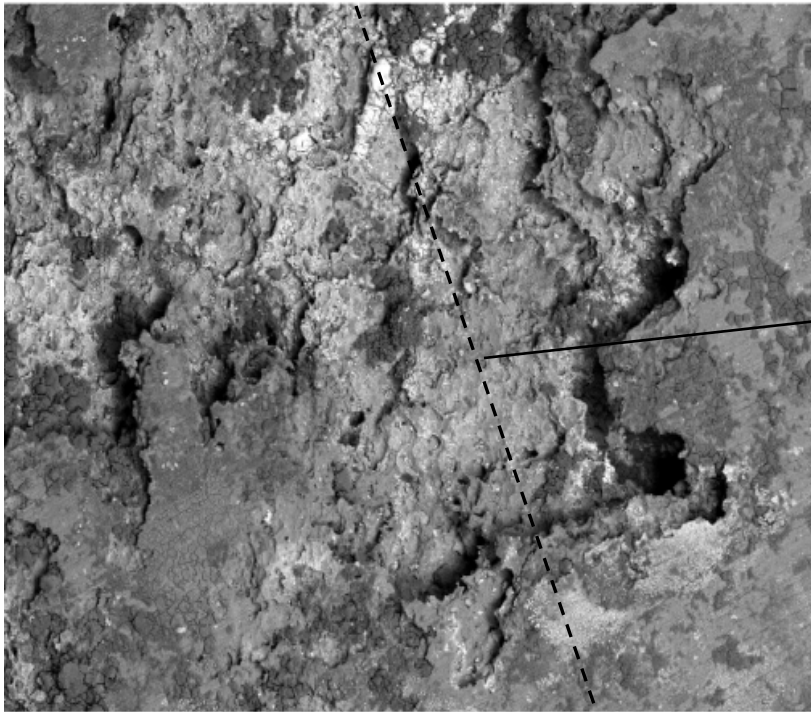
3mm 305 Bottom Cleaned 20x



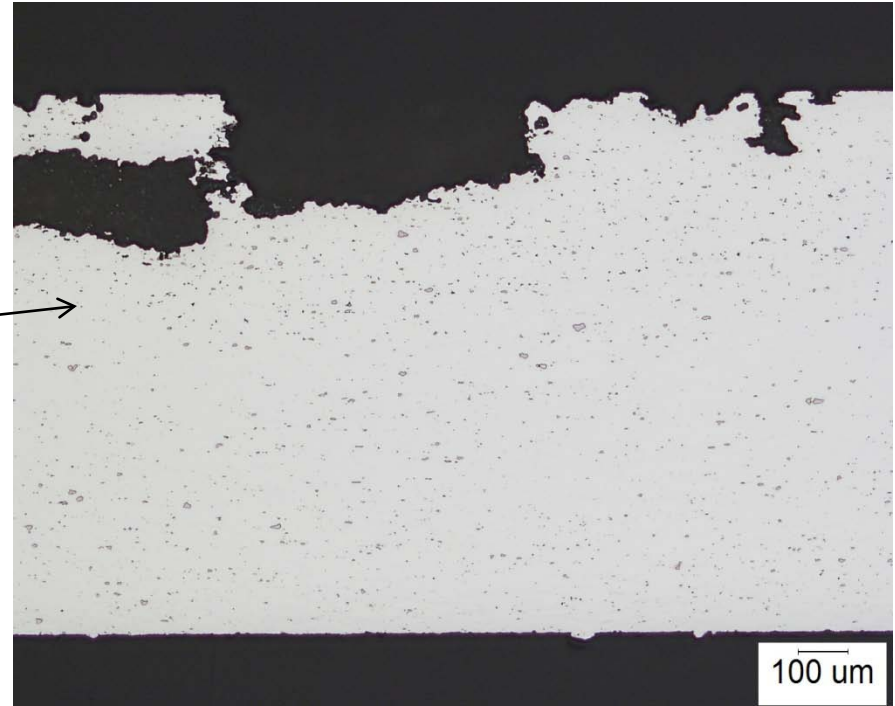


Aluminum Coupon Results: 3 Month Exposure, Descaled (Representative Samples)

Coupon ID 305 Fungi Consortia



305 Bottom Cleaned 75x bse





Aluminum Coupon Results: 3-month exposure

Coupon ID	Test Solution	pH	Discoloration Top Bottom	Pitting, max (mils)	Comments
701	Buffer only	7	3L-NP G-NP	~5 T	General staining only – T/B
702	Buffer only	7	None E-1P	~3 B	1 area of localized pitting - B
703	Buffer only	7	1G-3P G-NP	~2 T	General staining only – T/B
704	Buffer only	7	None 3L-1P	<5 B	Localized staining – B only
705	Buffer only	7	None None	0	No staining detected – T/B
706	Buffer + Biocide	5.5	2L-1P 2L-1P	~1 B/3 T	Localized staining only – T/B
707	Buffer + Biocide	5.5	2L-1P 1L-1P	~1 T/B	Localized staining only – T/B
708	Buffer + Biocide	5.5	2L-1P G-NP	~3 T	Localize staining only – T/B
709	Buffer + Biocide	5.5	2L-NP 1L-1P	~5 B	Localized staining/etching – T/B
710	Buffer + Biocide	5.5	4L-NP G-1P	~1 B	Localized staining – T/B
711	Water only	5.5	None None	0	No staining detected – T/B
712	Water only	5.5	None None	0	No staining detected – T/B
713	Water only	5.5	None 1L-1P	~1 B	Localized staining – B only
714	Water only	5.5	None None	0	No staining detected – T/B
715	Water only	5.5	None None	0	No staining detected – T/B
716	Fungal Consortia	7.5	3L-1P G-NP	>6 T	Surface staining – B only
717	Fungal Consortia	7.5	4L-4P G-NP	>12 T	Surface staining/localized pitting on T surfaces only
718	Fungal Consortia	7.5	1L-1P G-NP	>20 T	Edge corrosion – T only
719	Fungal Consortia	7.5	3L-1P G-NP	<1 T	Surface staining – T/B
720	Fungal Consortia	7.5	G-NP None	0	No staining detected – T/B
721	F-16 Consortia	7.5	G-2P G-5P	>15 B	Edge corrosion pits – B deepest
722	F-16 Consortia	7.5	22L-2P G-NP	~15 T	Edge corrosion pits – T deepest
723	F-16 Consortia	7.5	3L-3P 4L-4P	~10 T	Edge corrosion pits – T deepest
724	F-16 Consortia	7.5	1L-1P G-NP	~10 T	Edge corrosion pits – T deepest
725	F-16 Consortia	7.5	5L-5P G-1P	>30 T/B	Edge thru-wall penetration

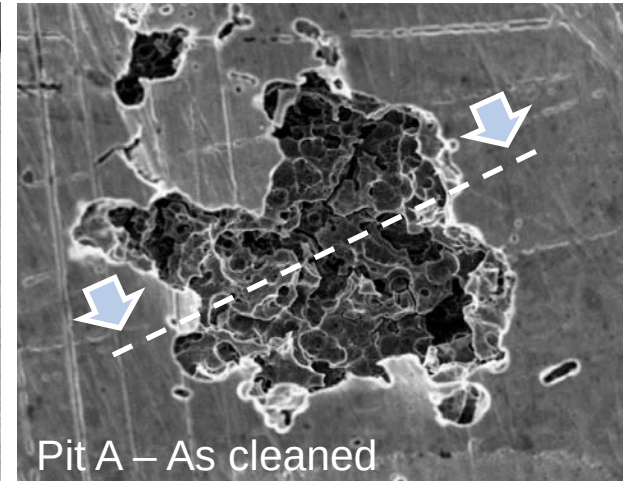


Aluminum Coupon Results: 3-month Exposure (Representative Sample)

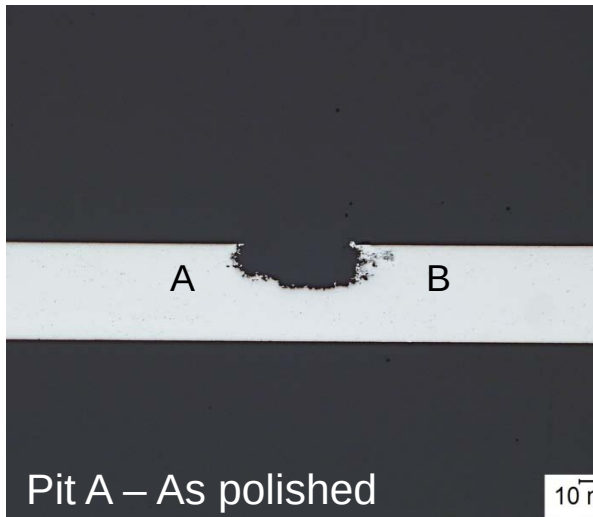
Coupon ID No. 722 (F-16 Consortia)



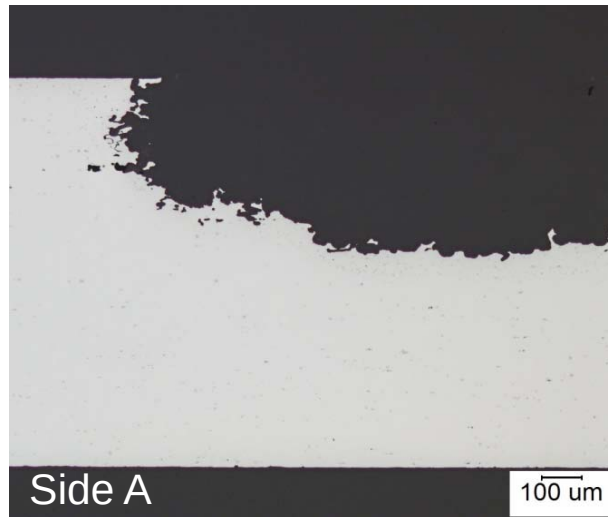
Pit A – As tested



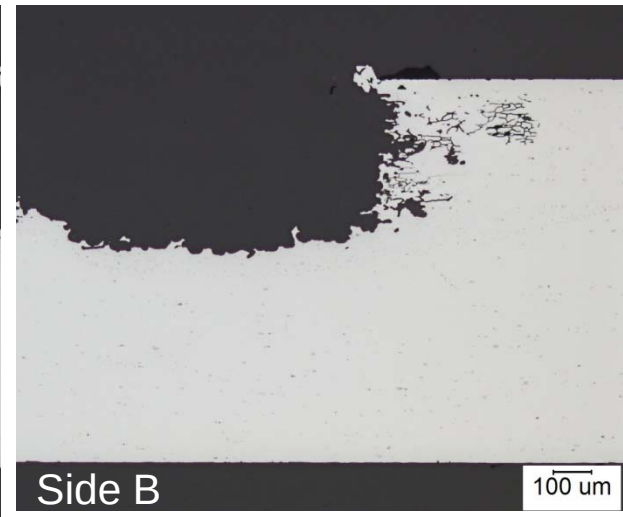
Pit A – As cleaned



Pit A – As polished



Side A

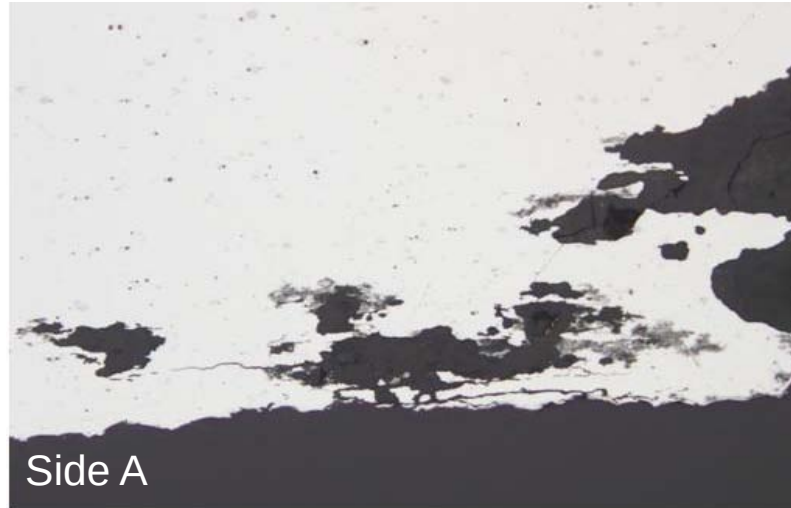
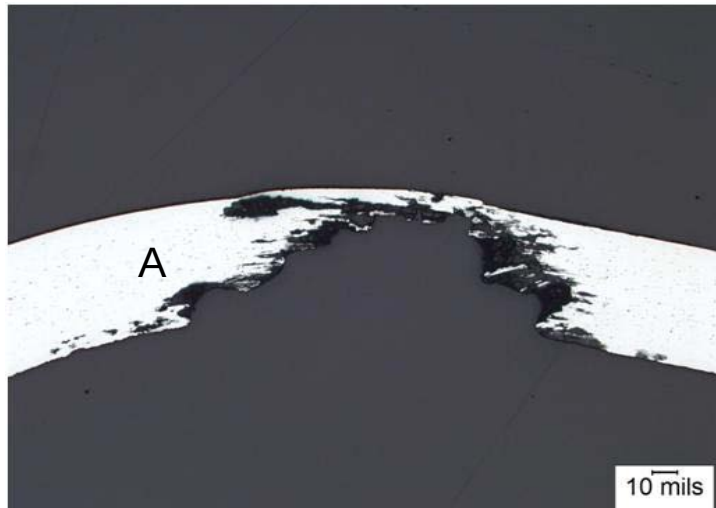
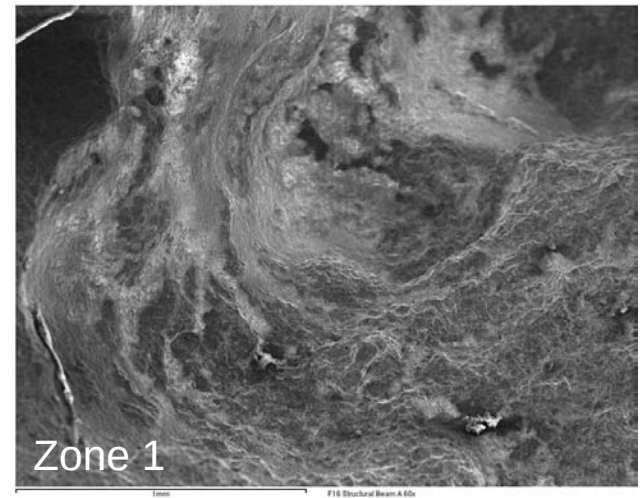
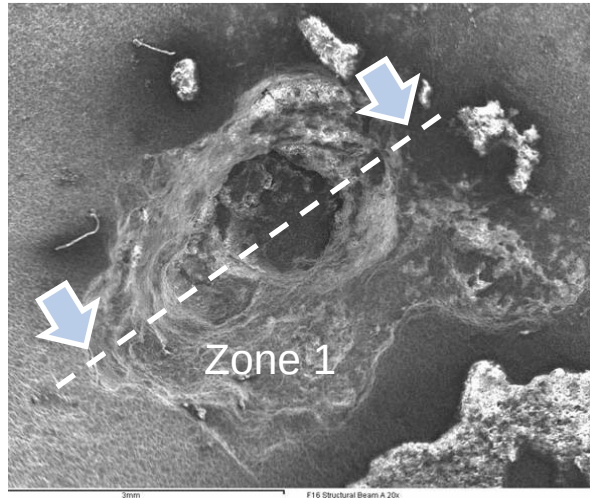


Side B



Aluminum F-16 Parts Results: In-Service Exposure (Representative Sample)

Aft Cockpit Beam





MIC Mitigation Assessment: Technical Approach

• ASTM Test Methods

- E 2180-07: Standard Test Method for Determining the Activity of Incorporated Antimicrobial Agent(s) in Polymeric or Hydrophobic Materials
- D 5590-00 (Reapproved 2005): Standard Test Method for Determining the Resistance of Paint Films and Related Coatings to Fungal Defacement by Accelerated Four-Week Agar Plate Assay
- D 3274-09: Standard Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Surface Disfigurement of Paint Films by Fungal or Algal Growth, or Soil and Dirt Accumulation

• Fungal Consortium

- *Aspergillus sp* (FI-19)
- *Fusarium oxysporum* (FI-6)
- *Hypocrea jecorina* (FI-1)
- *Pleosporaceae sp.* (FI-17)
- *Ustilago maydis* (FI-13)
- *Aureobasidium pullulans* (FI-16)
- *Fusarium sp.* (FI-18)
- *Penicillium oxalicum* (FI-12)
- *Rhodoturala mucilaginoso* (FI-7)

• Test Systems

Test System	Description
A	Coupons on acidified Potato Dextrose Agar (aPDA); variation of ASTM D5590-00
B	Coupons on Agar slurry inoculum overlay; variation of ASTM E 2180-07
C	Coupon Suspension Test



MIC Mitigation Assessment: Test Matrix

Sample Type	Sample Group	Sample Numbers	Description
Test	1	1-3	Cr ⁺⁶ conversion coating applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	2	4-6	Non-Cr ⁺⁶ treatment applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	3	7-9	Cr ⁺⁶ conversion coating and Cr ⁺⁶ primer applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	4	10-12	Non-Cr ⁺⁶ treatment and Non-Cr ⁺⁶ primer applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	5	13-15	Cr ⁺⁶ conversion coating and Cr ⁺⁶ primer and topcoat applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	6	16-18	Non-Cr ⁺⁶ conversion coating and Non-Cr ⁺⁶ primer and topcoat applied to coupons spiked with fungal consortium
	7	19-21	Uncoated coupons spiked with fungal consortium
Positive Matrix Controls	8	22-24	Whatman #2 filter paper spiked with fungal consortium
Negative Matrix Controls	9	25-27	Cr ⁺⁶ coated coupons; spiked with sterile water
	10	28-30	Non-Cr ⁺⁶ coated coupons; spiked with sterile water
	11	31-33	Uncoated coupons; spiked with sterile water
	12	34-36	Whatman #2 filter paper; spiked with sterile water
Positive Antifungal Control	13	37-39	Coupons coated with a known antifungal (TBD)



MIC Mitigation Assessment: 4-week Exposure Results

Coupon Type	SYSTEM I: Treated – aPDA + fungal consortium (coupon laying on fungi treated agar media)		
	DAY 8	DAY 14	DAY 28
Chrome Conversion Coating Coupon Type: A <i>Alodine 1200 (Henkel)</i>			
Non-Chrome Treatment Coupon Type: E <i>Prekote* (Pantheon Chemical)</i>			
Chrome Conversion Coating + Chrome Primer Coupon Type: B <i>Alodine 1200 (Henkel)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-23377H, TY 1, CL 2 (Deft - 02Y040A)</i>			
Non-Chrome Treatment + Non-Chrome Primer Coupon Type: F <i>Prekote* (Pantheon Chemical)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-23377H, TY 1, CL N (Deft - 02GN083)</i>			

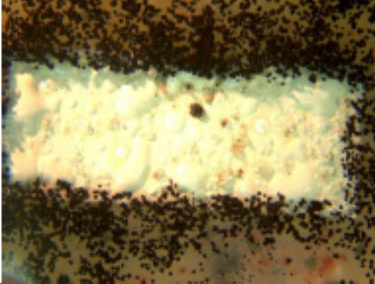
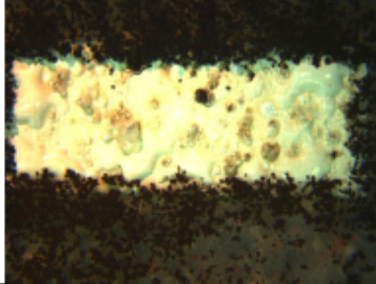
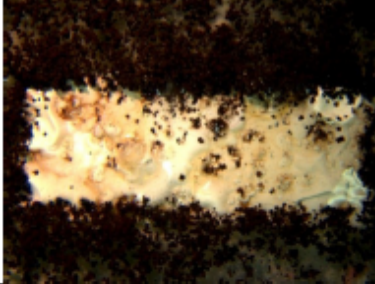
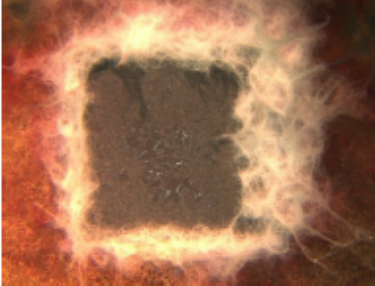
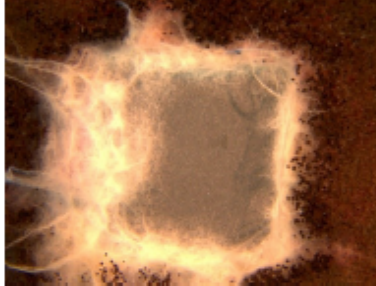
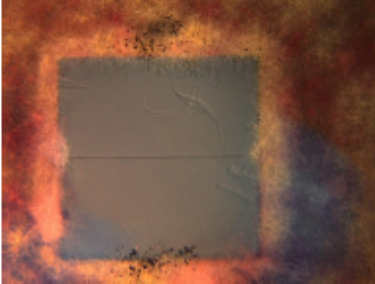
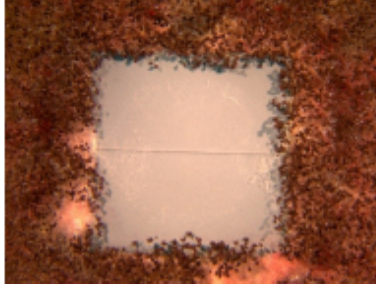


MIC Mitigation Assessment: 4-week Exposure Results

Chrome Conversion Coating + Chrome Primer + Topcoat Coupon Type: C <i>Alodine 1200 (Henkel)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-23377H, TY 1, CL 2 (Deft – 02Y040A)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-85285D, TY 4, CL H (Deft – 99GY001)</i>			
Non-Chrome Treatment + Non-Chrome Primer + Topcoat Coupon Type: G <i>Prekote® (Panttheon Chemical)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-23377H, TY 1, CL N (Deft – 02GN083)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-85285D, TY 4, CL H (Deft – 99GN001)</i>			
Uncoated Coupon Type: D <i>Bare Al2024-T3</i> <i>(Negative Control)</i>			
Whatman Paper <i>(Positive Control)</i>			



MIC Mitigation Assessment: Exposure Results

Bunge Silver Coating Coupon Type: H <i>Proprietary Coating w/ Silver Inhibitor</i>			
Non-Chrome Treatment + Mg-Rich Primer Coupon Type: I <i>Prekote® (Pantheon Chemical)</i> <i>Aerodur 2100 (Akzo Nobel Aerospace)</i>	 Day 6	 Day 13	N/A
Non-Chrome Treatment + Mg-Rich Primer + Topcoat Coupon Type: J <i>Prekote® (Pantheon Chemical)</i> <i>Aerodur 2100 (Akzo Nobel Aerospace)</i> <i>MIL-PRF-85285D, TY 4, CL H (Deft – 99GY001)</i>	 Day 6	 Day 13	N/A



Conclusions

- 17 bacterial & 16 fungal species (common environmental isolates)
 - Minimal impact to health & safety
- Fungal species promote MIC of Al2024-T3 alloy
- Intergranular attack with selective metal ion extraction
- Hexavalent chromium has biocidal effect



Points of Contact

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Questions??

Thank you!