

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Yokota Air Base Had Detectable Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current Department of War (DoW) policy requires public reporting of detectable levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Through routine monitoring, PFAS were recently detected in the Yokota Air Base (AB) water system. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what was detected, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On 16 June 2026 Yokota AB conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for PFAS in accordance with DoW policy, “Policy for Monitoring and Treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems outside the United States,” 28 September 2025. Yokota AB analyzed 25 PFAS compounds. The table below contains the results of those PFAS detected above the respective trigger levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public notification trigger level for PFOS and PFA is 2 parts per trillion (ppt). The public notification trigger level is half of the MCL and is used to determine how frequently future monitoring will be conducted. The Air Force will use this information to begin planning for proper treatment ahead of the EPA’s new PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Standards compliance requirements. For additional guidance on PFAS, use the following link: [ASD\(EI&E\) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) \(osd.mil\)](https://www.osd.mil/ASD(EI&E)/Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances-PFAS/).

PFAS Analytes	Detected Levels in Your Water			
	North Plant (ppt)	Main Plant (ppt)	West Plant (ppt)	South Plant (ppt)
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	3.375	3.109	5.953	3.865

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, food packaging, and cookware. They are also contained in some fire-fighting foams such as aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF, used for fighting petroleum fires.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. There is no need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. PFAS is found in everyday consumer items - from nonstick cookware to water-resistant clothing. PFAS is also found in essential use applications such as in microelectronics, batteries and medical equipment. Reports indicate most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS and have PFAS in their blood. Health monitoring studies show PFAS is most prominently detected in workers associated with manufacturing activities and in communities with elevated levels of PFAS in their drinking water. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes such as reproductive complications (e.g., decreased fertility) and increased risk of some cancers, but it is unclear what health effects are associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS. Additional information regarding PFAS exposure can be found on the EPA website (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>) and on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>). The science on PFAS is evolving. There is extensive research being done to determine where PFAS exist and what impact they have on human health and the environment.

What is being done?

The DoW is finalizing a new approach that aligns with EPA policies for PFAS. In the meantime, Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE), Civil Engineering (CE), and other installation partners involved in the Drinking Water Working Group are evaluating health and future compliance risks, evaluating possible mitigation measures, and planning mitigation. Additionally, recurring monitoring will continue to take place until results are below detectable levels. Yokota AB will ensure compliance with the EPA PFAS drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), including the MCL of 4 parts per trillion for PFOS by the required EPA and DoW deadline of April 2029.

For more information, please contact Bioenvironment Engineer Flight at DSN 225-8040.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Yokota Air Base.

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