IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

Detectable levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) were recently found in Yokota Air Base. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On 15 April 2024 Yokota AB conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in accordance with DoD policy, "Memorandum for Sampling of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in DoD-Owned Drinking Water Systems", 11 July 2023. Yokota AB analyzed for 29 PFAS compounds. The table below contains the results of those PFAS detected. The AF will use this information to begin planning for proper treatment ahead of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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).

Analyte	Abbreviation	CAS Number	Result (ppt)	2016 EPA Health Advisory Level
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	335-67-1	5.6	70 ppt
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	1763-23-1	8.3	70 ppt
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	375-85-9	2.1	N/A
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	307-24-4	2.7	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	355-46-4	4.6	
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	375-95-1	2.4	
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	375-22-4	2.7	
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	2706-90-3	2.4	

What should I do?
There is nothing you need to do. This is not an immediate risk for the general population. You can continue to use the installation's water supply.

What does this mean?
This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time. Current peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to elevated levels of PFAS **may** lead to:

- Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.

- Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.
- Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response.
- Interference with the body's natural hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries 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, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams such as aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF, used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression processes. PFAS compounds are persistent in the environment and some are persistent in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time.

Is there a federal regulation for PFAS in drinking water?
In May 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Both compounds are types of PFAS. On 10 April 2024, the EPA published new drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). AF is reviewing the EPA's new rule now, and will incorporate these standards into future sampling and analysis efforts.

Out of an abundance of caution, DoD pursued PFAS testing and response actions beyond EPA SDWA requirements. In 2020, the DoD established a policy to monitor drinking water for 17 PFAS compounds at all service owned and operated water systems. If results confirmed the drinking water contained PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70ppt, water systems quickly took action to reduce exposures. While not a SDWA requirement, in 2023, DoD improved upon its 2020 PFAS drinking water monitoring policy by expanding the list of PFAS compounds monitored to 29, implementing continued monitoring of systems with detectable PFAS over the laboratory Method Reporting Limits (MRL), and requiring initial mitigation planning actions.

What is being done?
Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE), Civil Engineering (CE), and other installation partners involved in the Drinking Water Working Group have begun to evaluate health and future compliance risks, evaluate possible mitigation measures, and begun mitigation planning. Additionally, increased monitoring will take place until results are below detectable levels.

For more information, please contact BE 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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