# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

Current Department of Defense (DoD) 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 28 October 2024 Yokota AB conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for PFAS in accordance with DoD policy "Memorandum for Sampling of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in DoD-Owned Drinking Water Systems" dated 11 July 2023. Yokota AB analyzed for 29 PFAS compounds. The table below contains the results of those PFAS detected. For additional guidance on PFAS, use the following link: ASD(EI&E) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (osd.mil).

| Analyte | Yokota AB<br>Sample Date: 28 Oct 24<br>(parts per trillion) |
|---|---|
| Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) | 5.1 |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) | 8.5 |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) | 1.9 |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) | 2.5 |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) | 4.6 |
| Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) | 2.3 |
| Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) | 2.7 |
| Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) | 2.4 |

Since May 2023, Yokota has seen reduced or stable PFAS values. Of note, a nationwide study showed PFAS present in 332 water companies from 46 of 47 prefectures. Updated EPA policies require levels less than 4 ppt by 2029. Previously, EPA levels were set at 70 ppt, and current Japanese regulations are set at 50 ppt.

**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.

**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, please 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 effects (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 DoD 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 have already begun to evaluate health and future compliance risks and have begun mitigation planning. The 374 AW is pursuing multiple course of action to further reduce PFAS numbers.

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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