

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.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On 11 Dec 2023, we received results for samples that were collected on 31 Oct 2023 showed PFAS was detected as listed below:

Analyte	Abbreviation	CAS Number	Result (ppt)	2016 EPA Health Advisory Level
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	335-67-1	5.3	70 ppt
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	1763-23-1	8.7	70 ppt
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	375-85-9	1.9	N/A
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	307-24-4	2.4	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	355-46-4	4.6	
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	375-95-1	2.1	
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	375-22-4	2.6	
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	2706-90-3	2.3	

There is no maximum contaminant level (MCL), the maximum level allowed in drinking water, for these contaminants. However, in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) policy, we are still required to notify the public of any results of detectable PFAS (i.e., greater than the minimum reporting limit (MRL)).

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?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe for decades. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. 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 (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires.

Is there a federal regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

There is currently no federal drinking water standard for any PFAS compounds. In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime drinking water health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Both chemicals are types of PFAS. The DoD issued a policy in 2020 to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all DoD owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every three years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA HA level of 70 ppt, water systems would 1) take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFOA, to include providing alternative drinking water; and 2) undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and localized source of contamination. The 2020 DoD policy was later updated in 2023 to include additional PFAS analytes, a revised sampling frequency, and public notification requirements for the detection of any PFAS analyte (i.e., greater than the MRL).

What about the EPA's 2022 interim Health Advisories?

The EPA issued interim Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA in 2022. However, these newer levels are below quantifiable limits (i.e., below detection levels). On March 14, 2023, the EPA announced a proposed regulation on PFAS drinking water standards for public comment. The DoD supports the EPA taking regulatory actions to address PFAS, including a drinking water standard for PFAS that will apply to all drinking water suppliers once final. The DoD respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide.

In anticipation of the EPA drinking water regulation and to account for emerging science that shows potential health effects of PFOS and PFOA at levels lower than 70 ppt, the DoD is evaluating its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water, and what actions we can take to be prepared to incorporate this standard, such as reviewing our current data and collecting additional sampling where necessary. The DoD remains committed to communicating and engaging with our communities throughout this process.

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 (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). 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.

Date distributed: **DD MMM YY**.