

An Open Letter from Colonel Thomas A. Pecina, Camp Foster Commander

Dear Kishaba Families,

This Monday many of you attended a town hall meeting held to inform you about planned and ongoing measures being taken to enhance water pressure and increase water supply at Kishaba Housing. I want to thank you for your participation and openness with me. I fully understand many of you have had water pressure and supply issues for some time, and I understand that many of you are frustrated. While we were meeting to discuss water pressure, I told you I would listen to your concerns and respond as quickly as I could with honesty and transparency.

During the town hall meeting, I heard you clearly that you also are interested in verifying water quality in your homes. We are happy to take additional samples now as a precautionary measure. We are committed to providing safe drinking water, and our drinking water sampling program permits us to monitor water quality on a routine basis.

We have coordinated with the Air Force to quickly and effectively take additional samples from homes whose residents asked me about their water quality. In addition, we will take additional samples to make up approximately 10% sampling of homes in Kishaba as a precautionary measure. This will be conducted as early as Friday, September 12. The precautionary sampling event will confirm water quality remains within standards by looking at things like color, clarity, chlorine content, pH levels, and bacteria. We chose these samples because we are able to receive quick results.

It is important to note that the Air Force and the Marine Corps already both conduct regular water sampling of water lines, water intake, and water use points, and that our sampling program is more stringent than the Environmental Protection Agency standards applied in the United States. In Kishaba, water samples are taken bi-monthly and every sample so far has been within water quality standards. These samples include many other elements and are conducted routinely on a specific schedule and have given us no cause for concern. However this precautionary sampling of 25 (approximately 10%) of the occupied non tower homes in Kishaba will give us quick results as to the immediate interests voiced by some residents.

We have scheduled another informational meeting for Thursday, September 18th at 1800 to discuss these results and the way ahead. We also will have experts at the informational meeting available to answer your specific questions about our ongoing drinking water sampling program, water infrastructure and projects, and the overall way forward.

We are continuing to capture the data on the families who have expressed the desire to relocate in order to implement the relocation plan to accomplish our goal of reducing demand on the water system, which should improve the overall water availability, flow and pressure. If you have a desire to relocate, please ensure your relocation survey and PCS data is quickly submitted to Kadena Base Housing office. The initial relocation implementation plan is underway.

Finally, the other major concern I heard, and perhaps the most important one, was the lack of communication with housing residents. We have met with some of your peers and with the Air Force and USMC Public Affairs personnel to best meet your communication needs and will also have communications and additional information available at our next open meeting. Our next meeting will be on September 18th at 1800 at the Camp Foster Community Center. I hope you can attend. Thank you and keep voicing your concerns so we can address them together.

Thank you,



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