Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

2014 Water Quality Report
Marine Corps Installations Pacific
Marine Corps Air Station Futenma
Okinawa, Japan

Introduction

This is an annual report on the quality of tap water delivered to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. The purpose of this report is to provide you, our customers, with general information about the quality of water you drink.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that all community water systems in the United States deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Although this law does not apply overseas and the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) do not specifically require annual water quality reports to be developed for customers, it is MCB Camp Butler policy to prepare annual water quality reports modeled after the Safe Drinking Water Act CCR.

Is my Water Safe?

Our water is safe to drink. No one is interested more in the high quality of our drinking water than MCB Camp Butler, G-F, Environmental Affairs Branch personnel. We are committed to providing safe drinking water to you at all times. Our routine monitoring program, which follows water quality standards and monitoring requirements set forth in the JEGS, enables us to maintain optimal water quality on MCAS Futenma.

Last year, as in years past, your drinking water met all health-based water quality standards contained in the JEGS.

Do I need to take Special Precautions?

Our water is safe to drink. Our monitoring program allows us to prevent potential health impacts that might occur if we drank water containing contaminants over long periods of time above the standards set forth in the JEGS. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in general than the general population. For example, immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from contaminants. These people should seek medical advice about drinking water from their health care providers if they have questions.

Are Contaminants in my Drinking Water?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants dissolved in the water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, naturally-occurring radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. In Japan, the Government of Japan (GOJ) and the US Forces, Japan, also regulate the quality of drinking water. Our monitoring program allows us to prevent potential health impacts that may occur if we drink water containing contaminants over long periods of time above the standards set forth in the JEGS.

MCAS Futenma Water System Information

MCAS Futenma drinking water systems are operated and maintained by the MCB Camp Butler, G-F, Facilities Maintenance Branch. The water is distributed from the Chatan water treatment plant to MCAS Futenma. The water supply to this treatment plant is a combination of surface waters (reservoirs and rivers), groundwater wells and a desalination plant fed by the East China Sea.

Monitoring of Your Drinking Water

We use only EPA and GOJ approved laboratory methods to analyze your drinking water. Trained personnel collect water samples from the distribution system and residents' taps. Samples are then shipped to an accredited laboratory where a full spectrum of water quality analyses is performed. The Naval Hospital Okinawa Preventative Medicine Department and contracted personnel collected approximately 50 samples in 2014, in which none were at a level higher than the JEGS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Results from these sampling are located on the next page.

For More Information Contact:

MCB Camp Butler
Environmental Affairs Branch
Water Program
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2014 Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Unit of Measurement	MCL	AL	Highest Level Detected	Violation	Possible sources of contamination
No exceedances in CY2014.					No	
Microbiological Contaminants	**Unit of Measurement**	**MCL**	**AL**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Possible sources of contamination**
No exceedances in CY2014.					No	
Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts	**Unit of Measurement**	**MCL**	**AL**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Possible sources of contamination**
No exceedances in CY2014.					No	
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	**Unit of Measurement**	**MCL**	**AL**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Possible sources of contamination**
No exceedances in CY2014.					No	
Residual Disinfectants	**Unit of Measurement**	**MCL**	**AL**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Possible sources of contamination**
Free Chlorine	mg/L	NA	NA	0.67	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Abbreviations Used:
CY: calendar year
mg/L: milligrams per liter
NA: not applicable

Definitions Used:
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the water sometimes look rusty?

Rusty or reddish tinted water may occur because of a sudden change in pressure due to flushing of a fire hydrant, etc. Iron causes the discoloration and is not a health risk. The normal flow of water will usually clear the mains within two hours or less. Check your water by flushing a commode bowl three times every 15 to 20 minutes. If you live on or near the end of a long distribution line, additional flushing may be required. Galvanized iron pipes or fittings within a home or building may also cause discolored water. Running the water will clear the piping system. If the hot water is rusty, the water heater may need to be flushed.

What is a Boil Water Notice?

Any time a drop in pressure occurs from a water main break or system maintenance, MCB Camp Butler Environmental Affairs Branch issues a Boil Water Notice and immediate sampling requirements go into effect. Boil Water Notices in these cases are precautionary and do NOT necessarily mean that contamination has been detected or is suspected. In other cases, if coliform is detected as part of our routine sampling program, a Boil Water notice will also go into effect as a precaution while corrective measures are taken. In this case, resampling continues until the corrective measures are completed.

Is it okay to drink from a garden hose?

The water that supplies the water hose is safe but a garden hose is treated with special chemicals and can contain bacteria and other substances.

Will using a home water filter make the water safer or healthier?

Most filters improve the taste, smell and appearance of water, but they do not necessarily make the water safer or healthier. If you use filters, please keep in mind that they require regular maintenance and replacement or the filter itself can impact water quality.

What can I do to improve the quality of my drinking water?

Running the cold water tap for 30 seconds prior to use helps to flush out small amounts of metals that may leach into water that has been sitting in metal pipes overnight. Water used for consumption should always come from the cold water tap. Hot water has more potential to leach metals into the water.

How will I know if my water is not safe to drink?

Your water supplier must notify you if your water does not meet standards or if there is a waterborne disease emergency. The notice will describe any precautions you need to take, such as boiling your water.

Does the water system have a lead problem?

The Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) states 90% of samples must be below the action level. The water system met that criterion in 2014. The water system will continue to be sampled for lead, and the next samples will be taken between August and September 2015.

I don't like the taste/smell/appearance of my tap water? What's wrong with it?

Even when water meets standards, you may still object to its taste, smell, or appearance. Taste, smell and appearance are also known as aesthetic characteristics and do not pose adverse health effects. Common complaints about water aesthetics include: temporary cloudiness (typically caused by air bubbles) or chlorine taste (which can be improved by letting the water stand exposed to the air).