IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PFAS Drinking Water Sampling Results at Misawa Air Base

On 15 December 2025, Misawa Air Base conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in accordance with the DoW policy, *Policy for Monitoring and Treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems outside the United States*, published 28 September 2025. The table displays PFAS detection results, with measurements given in parts per trillion (ppt). For visualization purposes, a part per trillion is one droplet of water in an Olympic size pool. The Air Force will monitor these contaminants and use this data to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s new PFAS national Primary Drinking Water Standards and implement mitigation measures as necessary. For additional information on PFAS, please refer to the following link: ASD(EI&E) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (osd.mil).

PFAS	Main Base Water Tower 1 (ppt)	Main Base Water Tower 2 (ppt)	North Area Water Plant (ppt)	Draughon Range Duty Office (ppt)
Perfluorooctane sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	11.02	11.18	Non-detect	Non-detect
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	Non-detect	Non-detect	3.09	3.88
Perfluorohexane sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	13.5	13.8	5.8	Non-detect
Perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS)	Non-detect	2.0	2.0	Non-detect

EPA Trigger Level for PFOS and PFOA is 2 ppt. EPA Trigger level for PFHxS is 5 ppt and PFBS is N/A

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, including notable compounds like PFOS and PFOA. These chemicals have been widely used in various industries and consumer products globally since the 1940s. PFAS are utilized to make coatings and products that serve as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They're also found in firefighting foams, such as Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), used for petroleum fires. A key concern is their persistence, as they don't break down easily and can accumulate in the environment and human body over time.

What should I do?
The installation's water supply meets all current standards and is potable. There is no immediate health risk to the general population.

What does this mean?
The exact effects of long-term exposure to PFAS are currently being investigated. However, chronic PFAS exposure has been associated with weakening the body's ability to fight disease, increased risk of cancer, liver damage, and elevated cholesterol levels. Prolonged exposure may also have negative health effects on vulnerable and immunocompromised populations such as pregnant women and children. More information can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/.

What is being done?
The DoW is finalizing a new approach that aligns with EPA policy going into effect in 2029. However, the base is being proactive and has already disabled one well which has directly decreased PFAS in the water. In the meantime, the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 35 OMRS/SGXB, will continue quarterly monitoring for PFAS in accordance with, *Policy for Monitoring and Treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems outside the United States*, published 28 September 2025. Sampling results will be made public within 30 days of receipt of final validated results. The current DoW policy requires PFAS analytes detected above the trigger level to be posted on the installation's public webpage.

For more information, please contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 35 OMRS/SGXB, at 226-6010 or 0176-77-6010. Date distributed: XX FEB 2026