IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PFAS Drinking Water Sampling Results at Misawa Air Base

On 21 October 2024, the Misawa Air Base Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 35 OMRS/SGXB, conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in accordance with the Department of Defense (DoD) policy titled "Memorandum for Sampling of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in DoD-Owned Drinking Water Systems," dated August 30, 2023. Misawa Air Base analyzed for 29 PFAS compounds. The table below contains the results of the detected PFAS. For additional guidance on PFAS, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 35 OMRS/SGXB, at 226-6010.

Sample Date	**2024/10/21**	**2024/10/21**	**2024/10/21**	**2024/10/21**
Location	**North Area Distribution Point (ppt = parts per trillion)**	**Draughon Range (ppt)**	**Main Base Water Tower 1 (ppt)**	**Main Base Water Tower 2 (ppt)**
Perfluorooctane sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	Non-detect	11	7.3	7.2
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	4.3	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	11	3.5	3.7	3.8
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	6.7	3.7	Non-detect	Non-detect
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	19	4.7	4.1	4.1
Perfluoropaentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS)	No-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	3.5	1.9	Non-detect	Non-detect
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic Acid (6:2 FTS)	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect
Perfluorohexane sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	8.2	2.9	13	13
Perfluorobutane sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect

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?
There is no immediate health risk for the general population. You can continue to use the installation's water supply.

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 DoD 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 semi-annual monitoring for PFAS until results are below the minimum reporting limit (MRL) for two consecutive sampling events. Sampling results will be made public within 30 days of receipt of final validated results. The current DoD policy requires the reporting of detectable levels of PFAS compounds.

For more information, please contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 35 OMRS/SGXB, at 226-6010 or 0176-77-6010. Date distributed:14 NOV 2024