Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress
Chesapeake, Virginia
Results of Off-Base Drinking Water Sampling for PFAS

February 2023

PFOA and/or PFOS were detected above 70 ppt in 7 of 68 drinking water wells sampled within a sampling area near Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and/or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), were detected above 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in groundwater at NALF Fentress. As a result, the Navy established a 0.5-mile sampling area from where PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in groundwater above 70 ppt. Since February 2016, the Navy sampled 68 drinking water wells within a sampling area near NALF Fentress for PFOA and PFOS (**Figure 1**). **Table 1** and **Figure 1** summarize the off-base drinking water sampling results.

PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected in 43 samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were detected below 70 ppt in 18 samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were detected above 70 ppt in 7 samples. The Navy has provided bottled water for drinking and cooking to the properties with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt. The Navy will continue to provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented.

Records indicate that a municipal water line from the City of Chesapeake does not extend to the sampling area which is presumed to be serviced by private drinking water wells. The Navy has offered to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area and continues to offer sampling of drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not been sampled. Property owners and tenants can call **800-931-6118** to schedule a sampling appointment.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is conducting the sampling in collaboration with partners such as Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Chesapeake Health Department.

Table 1: Results of Drinking Water Sampling for PFOA and/or PFOS near NALF Fentress

PFOA + PFOS	Number of Wells
No detections	43
Detections *below* 70 ppt	18
Detections *above* 70 ppt	7

BACKGROUND

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals that have been widely used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are of emerging public health concern. The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at NALF Fentress (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and life-saving emergency responses.

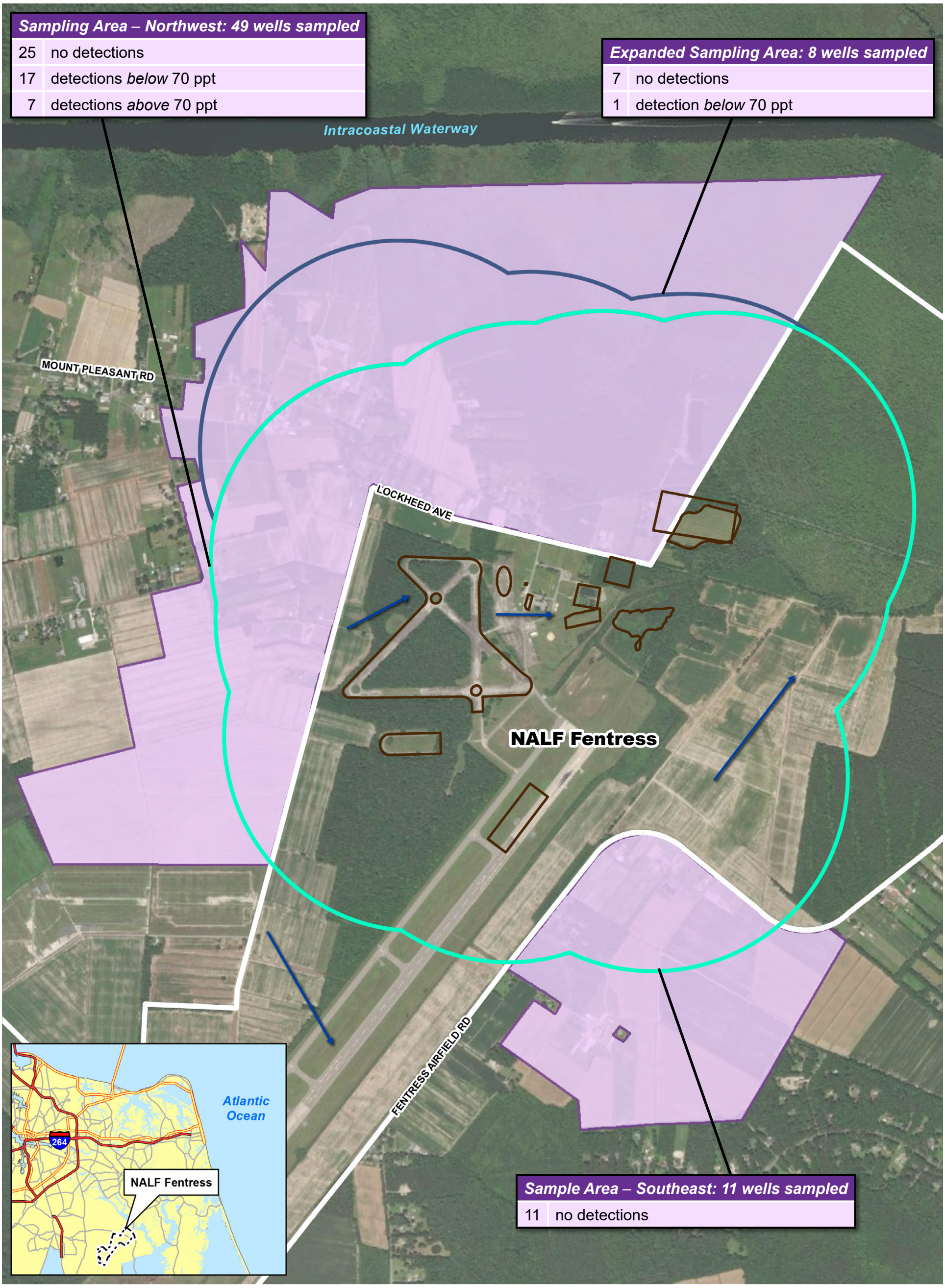
PFAS

PFAS have been used in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used.

Once these compounds are released, many of them tend to stay in the environment for a very long time. Several PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern. Although the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has started the process to

The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any property owner or tenant in the sampling area whose well contains drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt. The Navy will provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented.

Figure 1 – Designated Sampling Area



LEGEND

- NALF Fentress boundary
- Release area under investigation
- 0.5-mile PFAS release buffer
- 0.5-mile expanded sampling area
- Parcels within drinking water sampling area
- Shallow groundwater flow direction

Notes:

ppt = parts per trillion

In May 2016, the EPA issued lifetime drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS of 70 ppt, individually or combined. In June 2022, the EPA issued new, interim drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. The Navy is currently evaluating how it will address EPA's new health advisories. The Navy will coordinate with the Department of Defense to develop a consistent approach, to include proactive engagement with communities and the appropriate Congressional delegations.

N 0 0.25 0.5 mile

establish regulatory levels for several PFAS in drinking water, there are currently no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA has developed drinking water health advisories for a small number of PFAS; these advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. These advisories provide technical information to states and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies. More information about EPA's actions for PFAS in drinking water is online at: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas.

NAVY POLICY

The EPA issued lifetime drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS in May 2016. These health advisories recommended that concentrations of PFOA and PFOS, whether individual or combined, in drinking water should not be above 70 ppt. In response, the Navy proactively developed a policy in June 2016 to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a known or suspected release of PFAS to the environment. The first priority with these investigations is to ensure that concentrations of PFOA and/or PFOS, whether individual or combined, in drinking water are not above 70 ppt as a result of a Navy PFAS release.

In June 2022, the EPA issued new, interim drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. Because these interim health advisories are below detectable limits and are non-regulatory levels, the Navy is instead looking to EPA to propose a regulatory drinking water standard, which was anticipated by the end of 2022. The Navy is currently evaluating its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water, and what actions we can take to be prepared to incorporate this standard. The Navy will coordinate with the Department of Defense to develop a consistent approach, to include proactive engagement with communities and the appropriate Congressional delegations.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The Navy has provided verbal and written notification of results and provided bottled water for drinking and cooking to the properties with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt. The Navy will continue to provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented. A connection to the City of Chesapeake water supply is in progress, and the waterline extension is planned for Fiscal Year 2025.

The Navy and City of Chesapeake have set up a water station at 1564 Mount Pleasant Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23322 (across the street from Butts Road Intermediate School), where other concerned property owners can take containers to fill with potable drinking water treated by the City of Chesapeake.

For transparency with the public, final drinking water sampling results are available online at: https://denix.osd.mil/dod-pfas/section-345-data-search/section-345-data-reporting. Individual drinking water sample results cannot be linked with the sampled property on this website.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at NALF Fentress and evaluate if actions are needed on base. The public can find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, including those for PFAS, by visiting https://go.usa.gov/xSvt9.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about this off-base drinking water sampling

https://go.usa.gov/xSvt9

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

contact the Navy at:

800-931-6118

HEALTH INFORMATION

Studies on PFOA and PFOS have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Research to better understand health effects from exposure to low levels of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS is ongoing. Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA continue to conduct and support research into health effects associated with PFAS exposure. More information about health effects can be found online at:

ATSDR: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html

EPA: https://www.epa.gov/pfas