Department of the Navy PFAS Program Status

December 2020

Department of the Navy's (DON's) priority is to identify potential exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water above the EPA's health advisory, and immediately eliminate exposure.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manmade fluorinated chemicals that were used in many industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, some food packaging and specialized firefighting agents. PFAS are a group of thousands of substances which are widely considered to be chemicals of emerging concern.

Chemicals of Emerging Concern

These are chemicals relevant to the DoD that are characterized by a perceived or real threat to human health or the environment and that have new or changing toxicity values or new or changing human health or environmental regulatory standards. Changes may be due to new science discoveries, detection capabilities, or exposure pathways.

In the 1970s, the Department of Defense (DoD) began using certain firefighting foams called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which often contained perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). AFFF is widely used for combatting fuel-related fires to protect people and property.

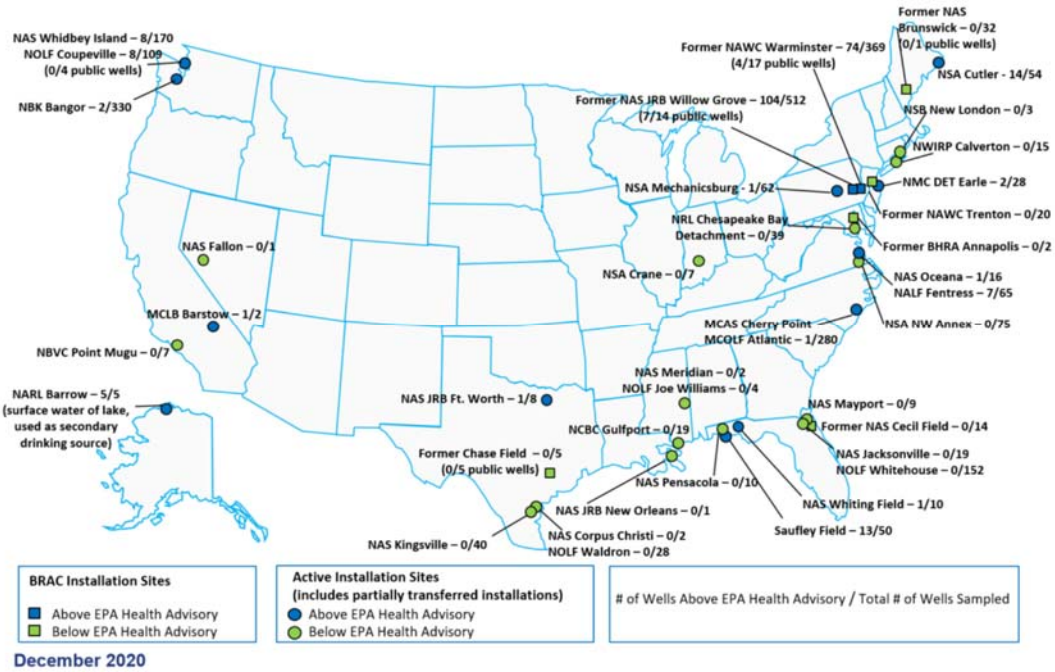
In May 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS and/or PFOA in drinking water. The EPA health advisory is non-regulatory and not enforceable; however, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) DON uses it to determine an acceptable level of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water.

DON's Policy to Address PFOA and PFOS Exposure in Drinking Water

In June 2016, DON issued a policy to efficiently identify and prioritize Naval sites with known or potential PFAS releases that could impact drinking water. If drinking water is found to contain PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA health advisory, DON immediately provides bottled water for drinking and cooking.

DON Off-Base Drinking Water PFOA/PFOS Sampling Results

DON has provided alternate drinking water to all residents with results above the EPA lifetime health advisory due to DON activity



The DON considers bottled water an interim measure. The DON always works towards long-term permanent solutions when drinking water is impacted although these solutions may take time to implement.

PFAS – per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances | PFOA – perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOS – perfluorooctane sulfonate

Additional information available at https://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx

DON Off-Base Drinking Water Actions with Lifetime Health Advisory Exceedances

MCLB Barstow, CA | 2 private wells were tested. 1 private well exceeded EPA health advisory (HA) and received bottled water. Long-term solution being investigated.

NBK Bangor (Bremerton), WA | Over 300 private wells tested; 2 exceeded EPA HA and received bottled water. Long -term solution being investigated.

MCAS Cherry Point – OLF Atlantic, NC | Over 250 private wells tested; 1 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Long-term solution being investigated.

NSA Cutler, ME | Over 50 private wells tested; 14 exceeded EPA HA and received bottled water. Long term solution being investigated.

NMC DET Earle, NJ | 28 private wells tested; 2 exceeded EPA HA. These properties initially received bottled water but have now been connected to municipal water.

NSA Mechanicsburg, PA| Over 60 private wells tested; 1 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Long-term solution being investigated.

NAS Oceana, VA | 16 private wells tested; 1 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Long-term solution being investigated.

NAS Oceana – ALF Fentress, VA | Over 60 private wells tested; 7 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Initiated project to connect to municipal water.

Saufley Field, FL | 50 private wells tested; 13 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Initiated project to connect to municipal water.

Former NAWC Warminster, PA (BRAC) | Over 360 private wells sampled; 74 private wells and 4 public wells exceeded EPA HA. Filtration is being provided for public wells.

NAS Whidbey Island – Ault Field, WA | Over 160 private wells tested; 8 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Long-term solutions being evaluated.

NAS Whidbey Island – OLF Coupeville, WA | Over 100 private wells tested; 8 exceeded EPA HA and bottled water provided. Initiated project to connect to municipal water. 4 public water wells sampled; none exceeded the health advisory.

NAS Whiting Field, FL | 10 private wells tested; 1 exceeded EPA HA. Bottled water provided while long-term solution evaluated.

Former NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA (BRAC) | Over 500 private wells sampled; 100 private wells and 7 public wells exceeded EPA HA. Filtration provided for 5 public wells. Monitoring results indicate other 2 wells below EPA health advisory.

*DON Off-Base Sampling Where Drinking Water Results DID NOT Exceed EPA Health Advisory, or no exposure**

- NARL Barrow, AK*
- Former Bay Head Road Annex, MD (BRAC)
- Former NAS Brunswick, ME (BRAC)
- Former NWIRP Calverton, NY
- Former NAS Cecil Field, FL (BRAC)
- Former Chase Field (BRAC)
- NRL Chesapeake Beach, MD
- NAS Corpus Christi
- NAS Corpus Christi—OLF Waldron
- NSA Crane, IN
- NAS Fallon, NV
- NAS Ft Worth*
- NCBC Gulfport, MS
- NAS Jacksonville, FL
- NAS Jacksonville – OLF Whitehouse, FL
- NAS Kingsville
- NAS Mayport, FL
- NAS Meridian, MS
- NAS Meridian – OLF Joe Williams, MS
- NSB New London, CT
- NAS JRB New Orleans, LA
- NSA Northwest Annex, VA
- NAS Pensacola, FL
- NBVC Point Mugu, CA

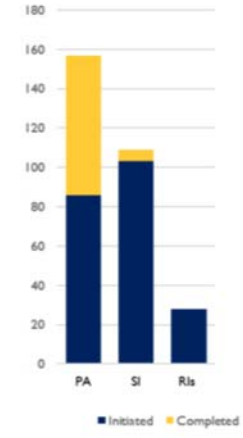
Ongoing DON CERCLA PFAS Assessments and Investigations

In continued implementation of the DON's 2016 policy, all installations initiated additional actions following the CERCLA process.

- The Preliminary Assessment (PA) is conducted to identify and evaluate additional areas of potential PFAS releases on each installation. In this phase, the DON is further evaluating the potential for exposure to PFOA/PFOS in drinking water. This will allow the DON to rapidly respond to any current exposure in drinking water over the EPA's health advisory.
- The Site Inspection (SI) is an on-site investigation of environmental media to verify potential releases, to initiate the characterization of releases, and to identify potential threats to human health and the environment associated with releases.
- The Remedial Investigation (RI) is a detailed on-site investigation to fully characterize the nature and extent and fate and transport of the release and the potential risks to human health and the environment.

The remaining phases of the CERCLA process will be to identify and evaluate remediation alternatives and design and implement the selected remediation alternative to address releases.

DON Installations with Ongoing CERCLA Investigations



PFAS – per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances | PFOA – perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOS – perfluorooctane sulfonate