

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Navy to hold second public meeting to explain new round of drinking water well testing surrounding Atlantic Field**

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. (Feb. 12, 2018)** – The U. S. Navy’s testing of private drinking water wells in identified areas near Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field (MCOLF) Atlantic will extend into a second round soon as part of its commitment to determine if drinking water supplies have been affected by past Navy fire-fighting operations.

On February 21, from 4-7 p.m., the Navy will hold a second public meeting to explain the sampling program to the community and respond to questions from the public. The public meeting will be at the Atlantic Elementary School, 151 School Drive, Atlantic, N.C. Also on hand at the meeting and working in partnership with the Navy will be representatives from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, North Carolina Division of Public Health, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Carteret County Health Department.

The Navy began testing in the community of Atlantic, North Carolina, in mid-November in an abundance of caution, in response to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lifetime health advisory for certain chemicals used in a variety of commercial products since the 1950’s. Of the 223 drinking water wells that were tested, samples from two drinking water wells indicated the presence of these chemicals exceeding the EPA Health Advisory.

While the Navy investigates further to determine if there is a relationship between these findings and the landing field, it is offering to test drinking water from the remaining untested wells in the community.

#### **EPA Health Advisory Background**

In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued lifetime health advisory levels for two perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – specifically perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) – at 70 parts per trillion, individually and combined when both

are present. Although these health advisory levels are not enforceable, the Navy has committed to testing for them as an added precaution for its neighbors.

PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA, are man-made chemicals persistent in the environment. PFAS has been used since the 1950s in products that resist heat, stains, grease and water. It has been used in a variety of products and substances such as non-stick cookware, food packaging such as microwaveable popcorn bags, and water resistant textiles and sprays used to treat carpets and fabrics. The most common historical Navy use of these chemicals has been through the firefighting agent, aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). Although there are no known records indicating AFFF was used at MCOLF Atlantic, based on the Navy's policy protocol, the Navy is voluntarily conducting this drinking water investigation for PFOS/PFOA.

Property owners in Atlantic who did not take advantage of the first round of testing will receive mailed notifications from the Navy proposing to test remaining untested residential drinking water wells. If drinking water concentrations exceed the EPA lifetime health advisory levels for these PFAS, the Navy will provide alternate drinking water (typically bottled water) for these residents until an alternate long-term solution is in place.

More information about the Navy's PFAS initiative and drinking water testing program may be found at: <http://www.secnv.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx> and <https://go.usa.gov/xR6SX>.