

# U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) SIGONELLA

## 2012 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### NAS II

#### About this report.

We are proud to present to you our annual drinking water quality report for calendar year 2012. This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) provides valuable information on water quality and supports the Navy's commitment to providing high quality drinking water to our service members, their families, and DoD personnel. Presented in this report is information regarding the source of our drinking water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with those contaminants detected above applicable regulatory maximum contaminant levels (MCL) or action levels (AL).

#### What standards apply to drinking water overseas?

DoD water systems in Italy must comply with the Environmental Final Governing Standards-Italy (IFGS). The IFGS were developed through a comprehensive review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Act, generally applied Italian drinking water standards, and applicable international treaty provisions. When Italian and USEPA standards differ, the most protective requirement was adopted into the IFGS. This assures U.S. personnel, family members, and Italian employees receive drinking water which meets requirements mutually agreed upon by the U.S. and Italy. U.S. Food and Drug Administration establishes regulatory requirements for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide similar protection for public health.

#### Is my water safe to drink?

Yes. Although the tap water provided to NAS II in 2012 did not consistently meet IFGS drinking water requirements for produced water, the Preventive Medicine Authority has declared the water potable. The water contained the chemical bromate at levels above the IFGS MCL in March and May 2012. Although bromate can cause health effects after continuous long-term exposure at levels greater than the maximum contaminant level, it does not cause any immediate health effects at the levels found in the water at NAS II. Additionally, the concentration of iron exceeded the IFGS MCL, but this MCL is based on aesthetic qualities of the water and not the potential to cause health effects.

#### Annual Declaration of Potability

**The Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy, (NAS II) drinking water is declared POTABLE.** This declaration is based on the Annual Drinking Water Surveillance results conducted by US ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND REGION – EUROPE for calendar year 2012, and current U.S. Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy, Public Works Department, Environmental Division water analysis and test results.

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## **Where does my water come from?**

Groundwater supplied to NAS II is extracted from three off-base wells. The water entering the installation is treated using sand filters and reverse osmosis membrane filtration. The drinking water is disinfected prior to distribution.

## **Source water assessment and its availability.**

The Navy completed a source water assessment in October 2011. This survey evaluated the adequacy of the drinking water sources, facilities, equipment, operation, and maintenance for producing and distributing safe drinking water. Additional information about the source water assessment is available from the Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental Office at 624-2722.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water website, [www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa).

The source of your drinking water is groundwater produced at three wells. As water travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (including radioactive material), and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water can include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive compounds can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **Additional information for Bromate.**

If present, elevated levels of bromate can cause serious health problems. Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. If you are concerned about bromate in your water, please contact the PWD Environmental Office at 624-2722. Information on bromate in drinking water and the steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water website, [www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa).

### **Additional information for Iron.**

Iron is regulated as a secondary contaminant by USEPA, because it may cause discolored water or aesthetic effects in drinking water, such as unpleasant odor or taste. Exceeding a secondary standard may cause people to stop using the water even though the water is actually safe to drink. Secondary standards are set to provide public water systems guidance on removing these chemicals to levels that are below what most people will find noticeable. Activities taken to reduce the iron concentration in NAS II drinking water include flushing the distribution system to remove settled particulates

### **For what compounds is NAS II drinking water tested?**

Drinking water supplied to NAS II is tested at least monthly and analyzed according to standards established by the IFGS. The water is analyzed for over 110 individual parameters including inorganic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, pesticides, disinfection by-products, radionuclides, microbiological contaminants, and residual chlorine (residual disinfectant). Information on the specific compounds tested and the testing frequency is available from the PWD Environmental Office at 624-2722.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water website, [www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa).

## How can I get involved?

Customers should always observe water conservation practices. Water is a scarce resource in Sicily and everyone's cooperation in conserving water is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact the PWD Environmental Office at 624-2722.

## Water Quality Data Table.

The following tables summarize the concentration of drinking water contaminants regulated by the IFGS that were detected during 2012. The presence of contaminants in the drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Contaminants (units)	USEPA MCLG or MRDLG	IFGS MCL	Your Water	Range		Year	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products</b>								
Bromate (ppb)	Zero	10	17.84**	ND	75	2012	Yes*	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	NA	0.45	0.01	2.17	2012	No**	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHM (total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	zero	30	3.0	ND	3.0	2012	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Ammonium (ppb)	NA	500	77.5	100		2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Iron (ppb)	NA	200	163**	23	380	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of piping and household plumbing systems.
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Acceptable to consumer	0.99	0.26	2.46	2011	No	Soil runoff.

\* Violation of the IFGS, the public was notified of the exceedances. Notice indicated that the problem is being evaluated to determine corrective action.

\*\*Results based on Annual Running Average of all samples taken during 2012.

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – A unit for measuring turbidity. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).
NA	Not Applicable.
ND	Not Detected.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
AL	Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. USEPA sets MCLs as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set by the USEPA or Italian water standards, and the most conservative (typically the lowest) value is adopted by the IFGS.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA, and include a margin of safety.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

For more information, please contact the PWD Environmental Office at 624-2722.