

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

# NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



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NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **Navy Announces Preliminary Results of Drinking Water Testing Near Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress**

**NORFOLK, VA (NRMA)** – The Navy today is announcing preliminary results of recent drinking water testing near Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress in Chesapeake, Va. A total of 52 private off-base drinking water samples were collected from Feb. 3 through Feb. 13, 2016 after Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC) were found in drinking water from base wells in January.

Preliminary results received by the Navy showed two of the 52 wells near Fentress have levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provisional health advisory for PFCs. The Navy is providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to the two properties until a long-term solution can be put in place.

Other properties where drinking water was tested fall below the EPA provisional health advisory levels, based on the preliminary results.

"The well-being of our people on Fentress and our City of Chesapeake neighbors is a top priority for the Navy," said Capt. Lou Schager, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Oceana and Fentress. "Equally important, is keeping the community and our partners up-to-date and informed of where we are in the process and the next steps," Schager said. Another public information session is scheduled for March 24, similar to the one conducted by the Navy, federal, state, and local agencies in February. The location and time are still being determined.

On Feb. 2, more than 150 local residents attended a public information meeting to learn about the Navy's plans to test drinking water from private wells near the installation and to learn about the reason for the PFC testing. Representatives and experts from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Health, and the City of Chesapeake also were present to answer questions.

The results received by the Navy are preliminary. Standard industry practices require that these sampling results must still be validated (i.e., verified). Once all of the results have been validated, the additional properties that were sampled will receive individual notifications of their results.

**Navy Region Mid-Atlantic is responsible for the operation of Navy installations providing support programs and services for the fleet, fighter and family.**

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The Navy started testing drinking water for PFCs in December at installations, including Fentress, where firefighting foam that contained PFCs was once used for training. The firefighting foam is no longer used for training.

In January, drinking water samples on the installation showed that the water contains PFCs above the EPA provisional health advisory levels. Personnel at the installation were provided with bottled drinking water. On Jan. 28, the Navy notified residents within a half mile radius of the elevated PFC location on-base and asked for permission to conduct additional testing to determine if the PFCs had migrated off the installation.

During the February sampling, the Navy in partnership with the City of Chesapeake, set up a water-fill station for use by residents who have concerns with their well water used for cooking and drinking.

The Navy is considering which methods are best to use for a long-term solution.

PFCs are unregulated or "emerging contaminants" that have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards. The EPA, however, has established provisional health advisory levels for two PFCs: Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA). The EPA recommends that actions be taken to reduce exposure if drinking water contains PFC concentrations above the provisional health advisory levels.

The Navy is continuing to update its public information website at [www.cnic.navy.mil/fentressinfo](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/fentressinfo) with new information as it becomes available. If you have any questions prior to receiving additional updates, please e-mail [fentressinfo@navy.mil](mailto:fentressinfo@navy.mil) or telephone 433-3132.