

Important Drinking Water Update

You may have seen recent media reports regarding testing for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in ground water at DoD installations.

The safety and security of our service members, families and communities remains the top priority at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville. This includes the safety of the drinking water aboard the station.

The drinking water at NAS Jacksonville comes from the Floridian Aquifer - a limestone formation deep underground. There are three deep wells, all greater than 1,000 feet deep, which are used for drinking water. The station also has a water connection with Jacksonville Electric Authority to supplement the drinking water system.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all public water systems serving more than 10,000 people to sample and test for several currently unregulated contaminants. PFCs such as perfluorooctanesulfonate acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are on the list of contaminants to sample and test.

These are man-made chemicals used in many industrial and consumer products. PFOS and PFOA are used to make coatings and products that are oil and water repellent such as for carpets, clothing, and paper packaging for food and cookware. They are also contained in foams used for fighting petroleum fires primarily at airfields because it rapidly extinguishes fires protecting personnel and property.

Drinking water at NAS Jacksonville is routinely tested in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. All results for the NAS Jacksonville drinking water system were non-detect for these PFCs at detection limits of 0.02 ug/l and 0.04 ug/l respectively.

These limits are in micrograms/liter, or parts per billion, and are below the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory level of 0.07 parts per billion.

Information published in a DoD report that the Military Times recently published states that PFC compounds were found or detected in shallow groundwater monitoring wells at NAS Jacksonville. No surface water or shallow groundwater is used as a drinking water source.

NAS Jacksonville is committed to providing safe drinking water to our employees and residents. If testing results indicated that drinking water was unsafe, it would be promptly communicated to installation personnel and residents until it was safe to drink.