



# Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

## 2019 Water Quality Report Marine Corps Installations Pacific Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Okinawa, Japan

### Introduction

This is an annual report on the quality of tap water delivered to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. The purpose of this report is to provide you, our customers, with general information about the quality of water you drink.

### What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to require all community water systems in the United States to provide their customers with a brief annual water quality report called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Although this law does not apply overseas and the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) do not specifically require annual water quality reports to be developed for customers, it is United States Marine Corps (USMC) policy to prepare annual water quality reports modeled after the SDWA CCR.

### Safe Drinking Water

Drinking water regulations require that all installation water supply systems are sampled and analyzed for a variety of contaminants in drinking water. Last year, your drinking water met health-based water quality standards contained in the JEGS. MCB Camp Butler, G-F, Environmental Affairs Branch (EAB) personnel are committed to providing safe drinking water to you and your family. Our routine monitoring program, which follows water quality standards and monitoring requirements set forth in the JEGS, enables us to maintain optimal water quality on MCAS Futenma.

### Information about Drinking Water Contaminants

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants dissolved in the water. The presence of trace contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, naturally-occurring radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or 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 chemical contaminants, 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 contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public

health. In Japan, the Government of Japan (GOJ) and the US Forces, Japan, also regulate the quality of drinking water. Our monitoring program allows us to avoid potential health impacts that may occur if we drink water containing contaminants over long periods of time above the standards set forth in the JEGS.

### Do I need to take Special Precautions?

Our monitoring program identifies contaminants in drinking water and allows us to avoid potential health impacts that might occur if we consume water containing contaminants over long periods of time above the standards set forth in the JEGS. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants than the general population. For example, immuno-compromised individuals such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, the elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from contaminants. These individuals should seek medical advice about drinking water from their health care providers if they have questions.

### MCAS Futenma Water System Information

The MCAS Futenma drinking water system is operated and maintained by the G-F Facilities Maintenance Branch (FMB). The water is distributed from the Chatan water treatment plant to MCAS Futenma. The water supply to this treatment plant is a combination of surface waters (reservoirs and rivers), groundwater wells and a desalination plant fed by the East China Sea.

### Monitoring of Your Drinking Water

We are committed to providing safe drinking water to you. We use only EPA and GOJ approved laboratory methods to analyze your drinking water. Trained personnel collect water samples from the distribution system and residential taps. Samples are then shipped to an accredited laboratory where a full spectrum of water quality analyses are performed. The Naval Hospital Okinawa Preventative Medicine Department and contracted personnel collected all required routine monitoring samples in 2019, none of which were at a level higher than the JEGS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Results from the sampling are located on the next page.



For More Information Contact:

MCB Camp Butler  
Environmental Affairs Branch  
Water Program  
DSN: 315-645-3328/5197

# 2019 Water Quality Table

| Inorganic Contaminants <sup>1</sup>         | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Highest Level<br>Detected            | MCL  | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|---|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Sodium                                      | No                   | mg/L  | 21                                   | N/A <sup>2</sup>   | N/A             | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Barium                                      | No                   | mg/L  | 0.0091                               | 2.0  |                 |   |
| Total Nitrate/Nitrite                       | No                   | mg/L  | 0.83                                 | 10   |                 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching septic tanks/sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Microbial Contaminants                      | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Highest Level<br>Detected            | MCL  | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| Total Coliform Bacteria                     | No                   | N/A   | N/A                                  | >1 positive sample per month, or any repeat sample is positive | N/A             | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Synthetic Organic<br>Chemicals <sup>3</sup> | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Highest Level<br>Detected            | MCL  | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| No exceedances in CY2019                    |                      |       |                                      |  |                 |   |
| Radionuclides <sup>4</sup>                  | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Highest Level<br>Detected            | MCL  | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| No exceedances in CY2019                    |                      |       |                                      |  |                 |   |
| Residual Disinfectants                      | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Highest Level<br>Detected            | MRDL   | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| Free Chlorine                               | No                   | mg/L  | 0.76                                 | 4.0  | N/A             | Water additive use to control microbes  |
| Disinfectant/Disinfection<br>Byproducts     | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | Annual Average                       | MCL <sup>5</sup>   | AL              | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| Total Trihalomethanes                       | No                   | mg/L  | 0.051                                | 0.08   | N/A             | By-products of drinking water chlorination  |
| Haloacetic Acids                            | No                   | mg/L  | 0.0027                               | 0.06   |                 |   |
| Bromate                                     | No                   | mg/L  | 0.0015                               | 0.01   | N/A             | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Lead and Copper                             | Violation?<br>Yes/No | Units | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile<br>Value | Sites Exceeding AL /<br>No. of Sites                           | AL <sup>6</sup> | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| Lead  | No                   | mg/L  | 0.0024                               | 0 / 11   | 0.015           | Corrosion from household plumbing systems   |
| Copper                                      | No                   | mg/L  | 0.056                                | 0 / 11   | 1.3             | Corrosion from household plumbing systems   |

**Abbreviations Used:**

AL: action level  
 CY: calendar year  
 MCL: maximum contaminant level  
 MRDL: maximum residual disinfectant level  
 mg/L: milligrams per liter  
 pCi/L: picocuries per liter  
 µg/L: micrograms per liter  
 N/A: not applicable

**Definitions Used:**

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.  
 MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.  
 AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow

**Notes:**

- 11 other Inorganic Contaminants were monitored in CY19, but results were non-detectable.
- No MCL established for Sodium. Monitoring is required so that levels can be made available upon request.
- 33 Synthetic Organic Chemicals were monitored in CY19, but results were non-detectable.
- MCAS Futenma is on a quadrennial monitoring schedule for Radionuclides. The next sampling event will be conducted in CY20.
- The MCL for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids is based on an annual average of quarterly samples. The MCL for Bromate is based on an annual average of monthly samples.
- The AL for Lead and Copper is based on a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value – i.e., no more than 10% of all sampled taps.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why does the water sometimes look rusty?

Rusty or reddish tinted water may occur because of a sudden change in pressure due to fire hydrant flushing, water main breaks, or other disturbances that result in a change to normal water flow. Iron causes the discoloration and is not a health risk. The normal flow of water will usually clear the mains within two hours or less. Check your water by flushing a commode bowl three times every 15 to 20 minutes. If you live on or near the end of a long distribution line, additional flushing may be required. Galvanized iron pipes or fittings within a home or building may also cause discolored water. Running the water will clear the piping system. If the hot water is rusty, the water heater may need to be flushed.

## What is a Boil Water Notice?

Any time a drop in pressure occurs from a water main break or system maintenance, the G-F EAB will issue a Boil Water Notice and immediate sampling requirements go into effect. Boil Water Notices in these cases are precautionary and do NOT necessarily mean that contamination has been detected or is suspected. In other cases, if total coliform bacteria are detected as part of our routine sampling program, a Boil Water Notice will also go into effect as a precaution while corrective measures are taken. In this case, resampling continues until the corrective measures are completed.

## Is it okay to drink from a garden hose?

The water that supplies the water hose is safe but a garden hose is treated with special chemicals and can contain bacteria and other substances.

## Will using a home water filter make the water safer or healthier?

Most filters improve the taste, smell and appearance of water, but they do not necessarily make the water safer or healthier. If you use filters, please keep in mind that they require regular maintenance and replacement or the filter itself can impact water quality.

## What can I do to improve the quality of my drinking water?

Running the cold water tap for 30 seconds prior to use helps to flush out small amounts of metals that may leach into water that has been sitting in metal pipes overnight. Water used for consumption should always come from the cold water tap. Hot water has more potential to leach metals into the water.

## How will I know if my water is not safe to drink?

Your water supplier must notify you if your water does not meet standards or if there is a waterborne disease emergency. The notice will describe any precautions you need to take, such as boiling your water.

## I don't like the taste/smell/appearance of my tap water? What's wrong with it?

Even when water meets standards, you may still object to its taste, smell, or appearance. Taste, smell and appearance are also known as aesthetic characteristics and do not pose adverse health effects. Common complaints about water aesthetics include: temporary cloudiness (typically caused by air bubbles) or chlorine taste (which can be improved by letting the water stand exposed to the air).

## Does the water system have a lead problem?

The Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) states 90% of samples must be below the action level. The water system met that criterion in 2019. The water system will continue to be sampled for lead, and the next samples will be taken between July and August 2020. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking.

## Is a Japanese translation of the CCR available?

All sections of the CCR are written in English. Please contact the G-F EAB at 645-3328/5197 for Japanese translation.

CCRの全てが英文の文書です。日本語訳希望者は施設技術部環境保全課までご連絡下さい。基地内：645-3328/5197 基地外から：098-970-3328/5197.

## Where can I go for additional information?

This CCR will be posted on the MCIPAC web page at <https://www.mcipac.marines.mil/>. Select UNITS tab, then News Center tab, and choose "Consumer Confidence Reports."



## G-F Environmental Affairs Branch Water Program

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