

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

On 1 December 2025, the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight was notified of the test results from water testing conducted at Gimhae Air Base on 10 November 2025. The Department of War (DoW) requires public notification for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected above established trigger levels in DoW drinking water systems outside the United States.

The recent testing identified the following result exceeding the trigger level of 2.0 parts per trillion (ppt) of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA):

- PFOA was detected at a level of 4.94 ng/L, or 4.94 ppt.

In accordance with DoW policy, Bioenvironmental Engineering will continue initial monitoring by collecting quarterly PFAS samples. The results of PFAS analytes detected above trigger levels, as defined in the DoW policy, will be posted on 7th Air Force's website. The Air Force will monitor these contaminants and use this data to ensure compliance with the EPA's new PFAS national Primary Drinking Water Standards and implement mitigation measures as necessary. For additional information on PFAS, please refer to the following link: [ASD\(EI&E\) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) \(osd.mil\)](https://www.osd.mil/ASD(EI&E)/Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances-PFAS/).

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires.

What does this mean?

The trigger levels are designed to guide the frequency of monitoring. They are established at one-half of the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for regulated PFAS and one-half of the Hazard Index MCL for mixtures of PFHxS, HFPO-DA (GenX), PFNA, and PFBS. It's important to note that a single sampling result does not automatically indicate a health-based exceedance. This is the initial sampling result obtained after the publication of the DoW PFAS policy for drinking water systems outside the US.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. This is not an immediate health risk for the general population. You can continue to drink and use the installation's water supply.

For more information, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering at DSN 315-784-2623, or commercial 0505-784-2623.

This notice is being sent to you by 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight.
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