

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Kadena Air Base, Chatan Drinking Water Treatment Plant (DWTP), Detectable Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current Department of War (DoW) policy requires public reporting of detectable levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Through routine monitoring, PFAS were recently detected in the Kadena Air Base (AB) water system. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what was detected, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The standards within this memo apply to all DoW-operated water systems and all drinking water purchased from Host Nation treatment plants. The 18th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron (18 OMRS) Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) Flight routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On 10 April 2024, the EPA announced a final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in the United States. The Department of War (DoW) extended these standards to overseas installations on 28 September 2025 through a memo titled Policy for Monitoring and Treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems outside the United States. This policy memo mandates initial monitoring to be completed by 26 April 2027, establishes routine monitoring and notification requirements, and requires compliance for all regulated drinking water purveyors to follow specified MCLs by 26 April 2029. This notification informs you of the monitoring results on PFAS analytes detected in the table below:

PFAS Analyte	Abbreviation	Result (ppt)
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	3.1
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	5.6
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	4.8
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA (GenX)	Not detected
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	Not detected
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	Not detected
Mixture of two or more: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and PFBS		HI of 0.48

What are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and where do they come from?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, food packaging, and cookware. They are also contained in some fire-fighting foams such as aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF, used for fighting petroleum fires. What should I do? There is nothing you need to do. There is no need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. PFAS is found in everyday consumer items - from nonstick cookware to water-resistant clothing. PFAS is also found in essential use applications such as in microelectronics, batteries and medical equipment. Reports indicate most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS and have PFAS in their blood. Health monitoring studies show PFAS is most prominently detected in workers associated with manufacturing activities and in communities with elevated levels of PFAS in their drinking water. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes such as reproductive effects (e.g., decreased fertility) and increased risk of some cancers, but it is unclear what health effects are associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS. Additional information regarding PFAS exposure can be found on the EPA website (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>) and on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>). The science on PFAS is evolving. There is extensive research being done to determine where PFAS exist and what impact they have on human health and the environment.

Are there regulations for PFAS in drinking water?

As noted above, on 10 April 2024, the EPA announced a final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the SDWA in the United States. The DoW extended these standards to overseas installations on 28 September 2025 through the DoW policy memo previously mentioned. Compliance with the MCLs outlined in the DoW policy memo is required by 26 April 2029.

What is being done?

The DoW is finalizing a new approach that aligns with EPA policies for PFAS. In the meantime, Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE), Civil Engineering (CE), and other installation partners involved in the Drinking Water Working Group have begun to evaluate health and future compliance risks, evaluate possible mitigation measures, and begun mitigation planning. Additionally, recurring monitoring will continue to take place until results are below detectable levels. Kadena AB will ensure compliance with the EPA PFAS drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), including the MCL of 4 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS by the required EPA and DoW deadline of April 2029

For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>, or send inquiries to 18 OMRS BE Flight at DSN 315-634-4752.

This notice is being sent to you by 18 OMRS BE Fight.

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