



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Meade drinking water quality

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE – According to the recent Department of Defense report issued by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety & Occupational Health), all of Fort Meade’s drinking water well results were “non-detect” for Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA).

In previous years, American Water, the installation's water and wastewater services manager, was not required to test for PFOS and PFOA while compiling data for their annual report. These manmade chemicals, typically used as water or stain resistance coatings on everything from carpets to clothing, are considered emerging contaminants and have not been part of their usual sampling. They were also used in aqueous fire fighting foam (AFFF); used at fire-training areas associated with aircraft operations. Last year, at the request of DoD, military installations around the world conducted tests for PFOS and PFOA.

"All of Fort Meade's drinking water wells were tested," said George Knight, Installation Restoration Program Manager. "All of the results indicate PFOS and PFOA are not detected in Fort Meade's drinking water. The annual report issued by American Water indicates that our drinking water meets all State and Federal standards."

A recent article in the Military Times (April 27, 2018) included the results of the DoD ordered tests. According to the report, the six Fort Meade drinking water wells were sampled and the results for all six were “non-detect” for PFOS and PFOA.

Also in the report are the results of DoD-ordered tests from four off-post groundwater monitoring wells located on former DoD property. These wells, which were installed by the Army, in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Maryland Department of the Environment and Anne Arundel County Department of Health, have been monitored annually since 1992.

These four groundwater monitoring wells are in close proximity to a former DoD fire-training area where AFFF was used and show shallow groundwater PFOS and PFOA levels over the EPA Life Health Advisory level of 70 ppt. Follow-up investigations are underway.

Fort Meade water supplies are not drawn from the same water source as these monitoring wells. Additionally, these monitoring wells are not associated with the ongoing investigation the Army is conducting for tetrachloroethene (PCE)-impacted groundwater in Odenton. Off post homes and businesses receiving their water from the Anne Arundel County public water supply are not impacted by PCE.

For more information on the off-post PFOS/PFOA groundwater sampling activities please refer to the “PFOS/PFOA in Groundwater Sampling Fact Sheet” located at: <http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment/bracLegacy/index.html>

Community members who would like to learn more about Fort Meade’s environmental restoration program are encouraged to attend the next Fort Meade Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott at 2700 Hercules Road, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. RAB meetings are held to keep the public informed of Fort Meade’s environmental cleanup and restoration program and to provide opportunities for public involvement and open discussion. Members of the public and the media are invited to attend. Visit <http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment> (click on RAB link).

BACKGROUND

Fort George G. Meade, established in 1917, is the largest employer in the state of Maryland and with more than 55,000 employees, is the second largest Army installation in the continental United States in terms of personnel. We are the home to all branches of military service; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard and serve as the home for 119 partner organizations including U. S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Defense Information School as well as federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Science Center.

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For more about Fort Meade, visit our Web site www.ftmeade.army.mil and look for Fort George G. Meade on Facebook and Twitter.