In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a new standard to limit PFAS lifetime exposure. The EPA reduced the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for five specific PFAS from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to 4-10 ppt. At the Garrison level we are required to publicly report detections that are above half of the MCL.

BACKGROUND:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large class of chemicals found in many consumer products, as well as in industrial products such as certain firefighting agents called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

Thousands of chemicals make up PFAS. They are also used in industry and consumer products like nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, and stain-resistant furniture.

PFAS are not naturally found in the environment. Prolonged lifetime exposure to PFAS may increase health risks.

ACTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Safe drinking water is fundamental to a thriving and healthy community here at USAG Wiesbaden.

There is significant attention on PFAS releases from DOW activities and the subsequent potential impact to human health and the environment. The presence of PFAS in the environment is a global issue due to its wide-spread use in many industrial and consumer products. The Department recognizes the importance of this issue and is committed to addressing PFAS in a deliberative, holistic, and transparent manner.

In our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of our community's drinking water, USAG Wiesbaden has been conducting initial monitoring for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in accordance with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) memorandum "Policy for Monitoring and Treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems outside the United States" dated 28 September 2025.

This notification is to inform you about the results from our recent drinking water sampling efforts.

WHAT WAS FOUND?

Current monitoring has detected certain PFAS compounds at levels above the established "trigger levels" but below the health-based MCLs set by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Trigger Levels are conservative screening values, set at half the MCL. They are not a health-based standard, but they will be used to determine ongoing compliance monitoring frequency and to support consideration of future funding, infrastructure, and other associated requirements to ensure all drinking water systems subject to the OSD policy comply with the MCLs no later than the compliance deadline.

MCLs are the highest amount of a chemical or substance that is allowed in drinking water to keep it safe for people to drink. MCLs are typically based on lifetime exposures to a contaminant. Regulatory agencies, such as the EPA, set MCLs to ensure that drinking water is safe for people over the course of their entire lives, and are enforced under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Here is a summary of the recent test results that were above the trigger level:

LOCAL PFAS TESTING EVENTS:

During recent water testing and monitoring procedures conducted by Public Health Command Europe, three locations within USAG Wiesbaden installation footprint **reported** levels of PFAS above the trigger level.

McCully: Sampled collected Feb. 11, 2025. Reported March 12, 2026.			
PFAS Compound	Result	Trigger Level	MCL
PFOS	**2.8 ppt**	2.0 ppt	4.0 ppt
Wackernheim: Sampled collected Feb. 11, 2025. Reported March 12, 2026.			
PFAS Compound	Result	Trigger Level	MCL
PFOS	**2.7 ppt**	2.0 ppt	4.0 ppt

*ppt – parts per trillion, MCL - Maximum Allowable Contaminant Levels

WHAT THIS MEANS & WHAT'S NEXT:

In accordance with all current OSD and EPA policy standards, Garrison drinking water sources meet safe drinking water requirements for consumption.

These standards have recently become more stringent by changing from a lifetime health advisory level to a maximum contaminant level, which is a positive step forward in protecting the health of the community. The ability to detect PFAS at lower concentrations enables reduction of lifetime exposure and can decrease potential health risks.

Early detection of elevated PFAS levels is a direct result of the Garrison's routine testing standards and proactive PFAS monitoring program.

The Garrison will continue water surveillance testing to determine baseline levels of PFAS in accordance with EPA guidelines. Baseline testing will inform future monitoring frequency. The Garrison will implement all requirements in accordance with the OSD updated guidance.

USAG WI encourages community members to report and bring any local water concerns to the attention of the garrison's Environmental Office for review and action.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES:

- *OSD Memo: Policy for PFAS in DoD water systems outside the US, Sept. 28, 2025*
- *OSD: PFAS 101 and Overview*
- *OSD: PFAS Data - On-Base Drinking Water Information*
- *EPA: PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation*
- *EPA: PFAS Explained*

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