



YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER

For more information call Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs
(253) 278-5491

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Media availability March 24 with Yakima Training Center and Army Environmental officials regarding drinking water testing near YTC

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, Wash. – Media are invited to attend a media availability with Yakima Training Center and U.S. Army Environmental Command officials March 24, 1 p.m., at the Selah Civic Center, 216 S 1st St, Selah, WA 98942. The media availability will focus on drinking water well testing on private properties near YTC. Please be at the Selah Civic Center no later than 12:45 p.m.

To RSVP, please contact Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs by 10 a.m., March 24 at (253) 278-5491 or by email at gary.dangerfield.civ@army.mil.

Background:

The U.S. Army tested 86 drinking water wells on private properties near YTC in January, and found 30 wells serving 44 residences with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) levels that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's Lifetime Health Advisory.

This completed the second round of drinking water testing on private properties near YTC. In October 2021 the U.S. Army tested 22 drinking water wells on private properties near YTC and found eight wells serving 12 residences with PFAS concentrations that exceed the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory.

The testing looked for concentrations of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), which are part of a larger group of chemical compounds known as PFAS. The Environmental Protection Agency issued a health advisory for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion.

The Army has offered and continues to provide bottled water to the property owners and residents for drinking and cooking at the locations with the wells that showed concentrations of PFAS above the EPA health advisory.

PFAS are present in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a critical firefighting agent used to quickly suppress petroleum fires at airports. AFFF was previously used at Yakima Training Center. PFAS are also found in many everyday products, such as food packaging, cookware, carpet protectants and waterproofing chemicals.

Yakima Training Center is following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process to identify the source of the PFOA and PFOS in the groundwater and take appropriate action. The Army assesses if past activities may have resulted in a release and the potential for human exposure, and takes action to protect human health and the environment. Further CERCLA actions are prioritized and sequenced based on risk.

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