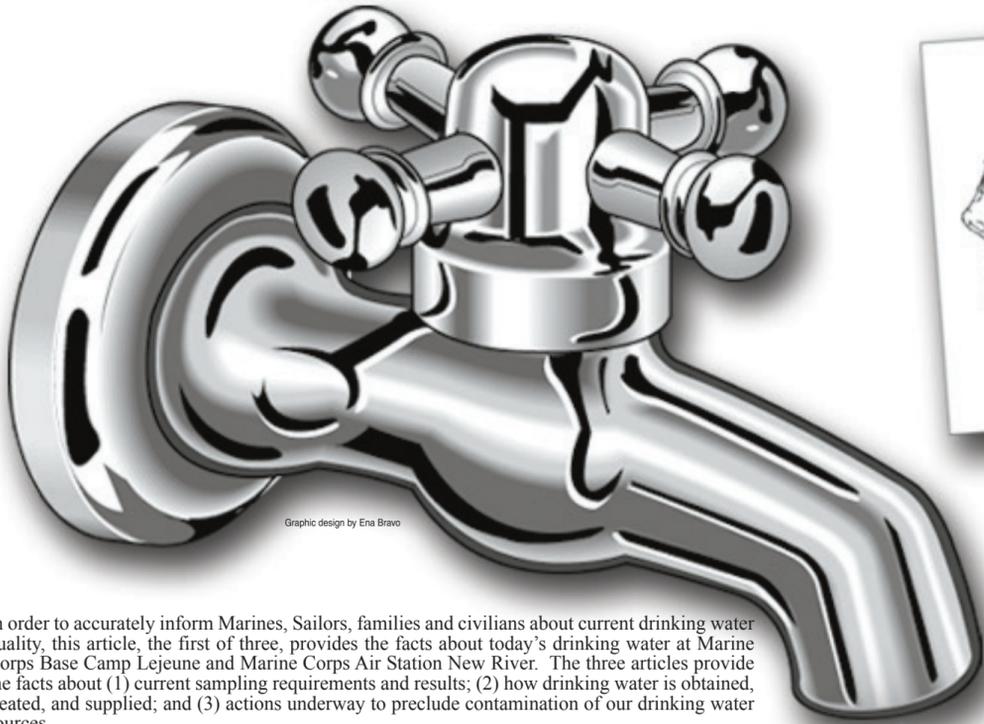
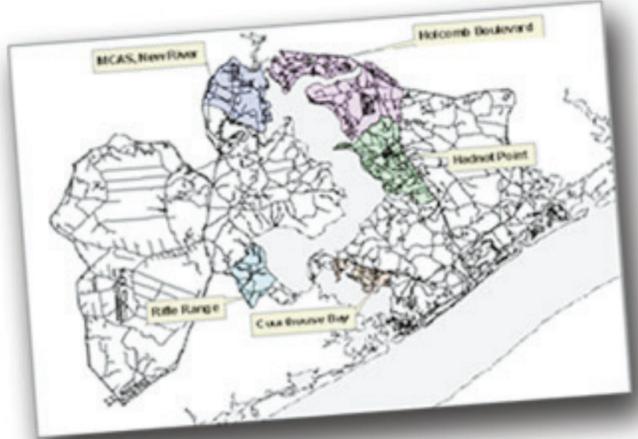


Do you know your H₂O?



Graphic design by Ena Bravo



In order to accurately inform Marines, Sailors, families and civilians about current drinking water quality, this article, the first of three, provides the facts about today's drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. The three articles provide the facts about (1) current sampling requirements and results; (2) how drinking water is obtained, treated, and supplied; and (3) actions underway to preclude contamination of our drinking water sources.

SAFE WATER

The drinking water at MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River is safe to drink. We routinely test the water for more than 80 different U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulated chemical and microbiological contaminants - meeting or exceeding all Safe Drinking Water Act sampling requirements. In addition, we regularly test the water for contaminants that are not regulated. Camp Lejeune is committed to providing Marines, Sailors, families and civilians with safe and reliable drinking water.

Camp Lejeune operates five water treatment plants and distribution systems that supply the drinking water demands of the vast majority of the MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River complex (see map for areas served by these five drinking water treatment and distribution systems). For some outlying areas - like the Rifle Range at Stone Bay, the Verona Loop area and the Greater Sandy Run area - water is purchased from Onslow County.

WHAT TESTING PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED?

All drinking water sampling, analysis, and reporting of results at Camp Lejeune is done in complete conformance to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This means that required sampling protocols are used to collect the water samples, and specified laboratory methods are used to prepare each sample - along with required quality control checks. It also means that the required reporting procedures and deadlines are adhered to in providing our water quality results to regulatory agencies. All laboratories used by Camp Lejeune to analyze our drinking water samples are EPA certified for drinking water quality analysis.

We hope this information gives you a better understanding of what the base is doing to ensure that the drinking water provided is safe for the Marines, Sailors, families and civilians that live, work and train onboard the base.

IS THERE LEAD IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Lead is not typically in the treated water when it leaves the water treatment plant. However, it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the same community, as a result of materials and fixtures used in your home's plumbing. Completely "Lead Free" water fixtures are not available - those fixtures advertised as such still contain as much as 8 percent lead. As your drinking water comes in contact with these plumbing materials and fixtures, lead can be introduced into the drinking water. Camp Lejeune has undertaken corrosion control studies and subsequent corrective actions to minimize the potential for your drinking water to contain lead. Infants, young children and pregnant women are

typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Regardless of where you live or work, the best means to ensure your drinking water does not contain lead is to flush your tap before use for cooking and consumption. Flushing the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder - usually about 60 seconds. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to reduce the potential for exposure to lead and copper. Additional information is available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791), or found at the following Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

HOW OFTEN IS THE WATER TESTED?

The following table outlines the various contaminant types that we are required to sample for, the sampling frequency required by law, and the sampling frequency actually implemented and followed at Camp Lejeune. All of these requirements address the finished water as it leaves the treatment facility and is ready to be sent through the distribution system to the consumers. As you can see below, Camp Lejeune goes well beyond the requirements for Volatile Organic Compound testing of finished water.

Contaminant Type	Required Frequency	Sampling Frequency
Bacteriological	Weekly	Weekly
Fluoride	Weekly	Weekly
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) (Including gasoline additive MTBE)	Every 3 years	Monthly
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	Every Quarter	Every Quarter
Lead & Copper	Semi-annually, Annually, or Every 3 years	Semi-annually, Annually, or Every 3 years
Nitrates / Nitrites	Every year	Every year
Inorganics	Every 3 years	Every 3 years
Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)	Every 3 years	Every 3 years
Radiological	Every 4 years	Every 4 years
Asbestos	Every 9 years	Every 9 years

It should be pointed out that there are no Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for sampling of raw water supply wells. However, Camp Lejeune samples the raw water wells at least annually for VOCs to provide an even greater confidence factor. Our VOC testing of finished water and raw water supply wells includes sampling for the gasoline additive MTBE that has been a concern in some water systems across the county - but has never been detected in our drinking water wells or our finished water. Given all of the concern over VOC contamination in the drinking water prior to 1985, Camp Lejeune takes these voluntary, additional VOC sampling actions to show that there is no concern for VOC contamination in our drinking water today.

WHAT ABOUT CONTAMINATION FROM MILITARY TRAINING?

With all of the recent media attention focused on military ranges and the possibility of military munitions activities potentially contaminating drinking water sources, Camp Lejeune has also begun a program to sample all finished water monthly for munitions constituents, to include Perchlorate, TNT, HMX and RDX. The first round of this monthly sampling was completed in April 2004, and the results were received in May 2004. The results showed no munitions constituents were detected in the finished water of any of the systems. The Safe Drinking Water Act does not regulate these constituents, nor is there a requirement for testing, but we are conducting this voluntary sampling and testing to ensure the highest standards for our drinking water.

