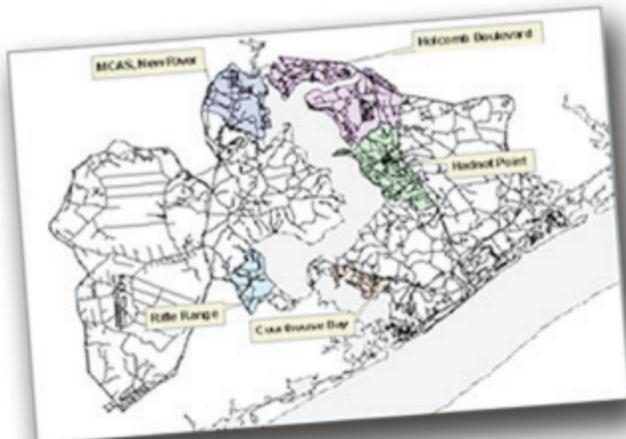


Do you know your H₂O?



Graphic design by Ena Bravo



HOW CAN THERE BE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells that pull from underground aquifers. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity, for example:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in finished drinking water provided by public water systems. Camp Lejeune uses the treatment process discussed earlier in this article, and water sampling of finished water and raw water supply wells, discussed in the first article of this series, to detect contaminants and preclude them from the drinking water system. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide protection for public health.

DO I NEED TO TAKE ANY SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to even minute levels of contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, or people with immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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. This informational series can be viewed at www.lejeune.usmc.mil/emd/wq/wq.htm.

HOW DRINKING WATER IS PRODUCED AT CAMP LEJEUNE

This is the second of a three part series on drinking water at Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Last week, we addressed our current sampling and testing efforts to ensure that the drinking water is safe. This second article in the series will provide some information on where our drinking water comes from and how it is obtained, treated and supplied.

The following information is intended to help explain where your water comes from, and the actions that Camp Lejeune takes to ensure you are consuming safe drinking water. Much of the information contained here comes directly from the EPA and is required to be forwarded annually to consumers of all municipal drinking water systems. Consumer Confidence Reports are published and distributed annually during the month of July. Past Consumer Confidence Reports for Camp Lejeune can be found by logging onto:

www.lejeune.usmc.mil/emd/reports/annual-reports.htm.

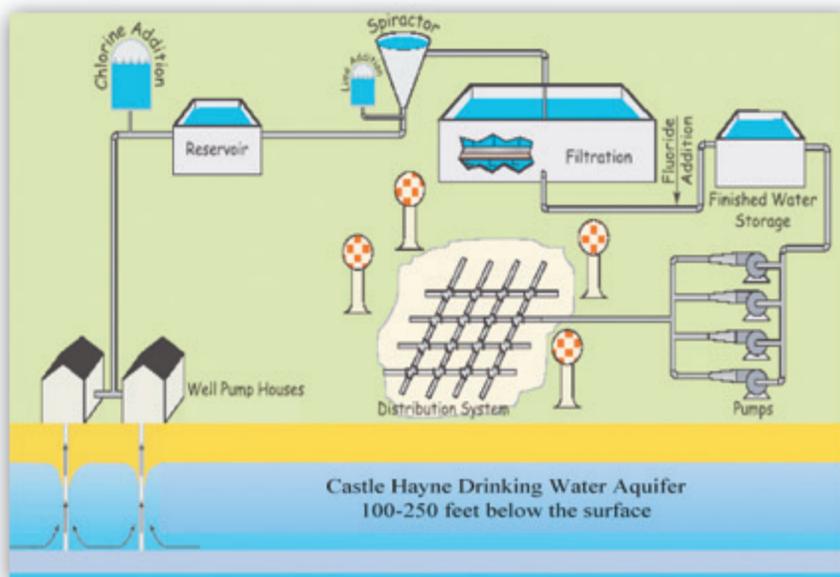
WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

The five drinking water treatment plants obtain water from about 80 different raw water supply wells located throughout the Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River complex in the general areas of the treatment plants. Through these wells, groundwater is pumped from the Castle Hayne freshwater aquifer approximately 180 feet below the ground. It is pumped from the wells to one of the water treatment plants, where it goes through a series of processes: softening the water by removing minerals; filtration through layers of sand and carbon to remove particles; chlorination to protect against microbial contamination; and fluoride addition to help prevent tooth decay. When you turn your tap on, the water is delivered through the distribution system from pressure created by pumps or elevated storage tanks (see diagram of how the aquifers, wells, treatment plants, and distribution systems all work together).

PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY WATER TO OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is committed to providing you with drinking water that is safe and reliable. The diagram below explains where your water comes from, including the deep drinking water wells, water treatment at one of 5 Camp Lejeune water treatment plants, water storage in reservoirs and elevated tanks, and distribution of treated water to your faucet. We routinely test your water for over 80 different EPA regulated chemicals and microbiological contaminants.

Chart courtesy of AA Environmental



This informational series can be viewed at www.lejeune.usmc.mil/emd/wq/wq.htm.