



# United States Marine Corps

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MCAGCC WATER QUALITY**

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.—**

In June 2017, five sites aboard the Combat Center were tested for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAs. Only one site exceeded the maximum safe level. The groundwater at this site does not contribute to the drinking water aquifer for the base or the city

PFAs are widely used chemicals found in various industrial and consumer products. The most common Department of the Navy activity that could potentially result in the release of PFAs to the environment is the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses.

The site that tested positive in 2017 has groundwater testing well locations in the vicinity of the current and old aircraft firefighting locations at the airfield near Camp Wilson. The contamination at these locations is readily traceable, as Marines regularly trained with aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) as part of their firefighting training. Marines are no longer training with AFFF at these sites and there is no hazard to personnel at this site. The groundwater does not contribute to the drinking water aquifer for the base or the city.

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a lifetime health advisory for drinking water of 70 parts per trillion for the combined value of two PFAS (perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

The installation routinely tests water quality aboard the installation and our drinking water remains safe to drink. The drinking water aboard the installation does not contain detectable levels of PFAs, as found in the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).