
Camp Lejeune Area Water Survey

An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services is conducting a survey that Marines, Sailors and their family members who may have lived aboard Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985 should know about. The Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a part of the Public Health Service, is looking for women who were pregnant between 1968 and 1985 and lived in base housing aboard Camp Lejeune. The study has to do with substances called volatile organic compounds or VOCs. VOCs are often used as cleaners and degreasers. The specific substances that ATSDR is interested in this survey are tetrachloroethylene (PCE), a commonly used dry cleaning solvent and trichloroethylene (TCE), a degreaser (chemical cleaner). These substances were found in the water distribution systems in Tarawa Terrace and Hospital Point in the early 1980's.

The survey is an attempt to gather scientific evidence about the effects that these substances may have on children that were in utero during this time. Although some studies have been done in the past, the results so far have been inconclusive. This survey will add to the body of scientific knowledge about these substances.

The VOC's in the early 80's at Tarawa Terrace originated from an off-base dry cleaner. The VOCs found in the water at Hospital Point came from underground storage tank leaks and common past disposal practices in the Hadnot Point industrial area. They were found in the water distribution system during routine water testing. At that time, no federal or state regulations existed for VOCs found in water. All 12 wells that were found to contain these substances were closed and capped in 1985. Since then, water to Tarawa Terrace has come from the Holcomb Boulevard water treatment plant. This and all water is tested regularly to ensure the water is safe to drink and complies with all federal and state standards.

If you or someone you know was pregnant and lived aboard Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985, you are encouraged to participate in this survey. Call the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), the organization conducting the survey for ATSDR, at 1 800 639 4270. For more information about the study or about VOCs, call ATSDR at 1 888 42 ATSDR or visit their website at

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<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>.

**For more general information call Camp Lejeune Public Affairs toll free
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