

THOMAS A. TOWNSEND

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18 May 2000

General James L. Jones, Jr. USMC
Commandant, United States Marine Corps
Navy Annex
Arlington, Virginia 22212

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Dear Commandant Jones,

The Commandant is aware of the water supply contamination problem at Camp Lejeune and the on-going actions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A nation-wide survey is underway regarding this contamination problem; however, this officer does not believe the word is sufficiently out to the thousands of Marines and their families that have resided at Camp Lejeune since the 1950's. The "Leatherneck" magazine and the retirees newsletter "Sentry Fidelis" passed on the word, but that, in my view is too limiting.

This is a very serious issue of having volatile organic compounds in a trusted, public water supply since they are especially dangerous to children and infants in utero.

[REDACTED]

The news of the disaster is now just coming out and for my family a mixed reception.

I believe the situation warrants an ALMAGE that will reach a wider spectrum of the Marine Corps population. The USMC is already identified as being a contributing factor to the problem so I don't think wider dissemination changes any liability issues already present.

Lastly, in my contact with the office of the Judge Advocate General (Navy) relative to claim protocols, I received a standard form 95

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"Claim For Damage, Injury or Death". No instructions, no mention of suggest documentation, no counsel. Nothing but a form and a covering letter asking me to send my claim to that office.

I get better and more compassionate service from USAFA when my car windshield is broken!

If the office of the Judge Advocate General (Navy) is taking this contamination/suicidal situation, possibly with a wrongful death claim, so cavalierly = think something has changed in the old philosophy that the Corps takes care of its own.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas A. Townsend
MAJOR, USMC (Ret.)

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