



Commander, Atlantic Division  
Navy Facilities Engineering Command  
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SUBJ: LANTDIV INVOLVEMENT IN TTHM TESTING AT MCB, Camp  
Lejeune BY U.S. ARMY INSPECTION TEAM

- Ref: (a) 40 CFR Part 141, Federal Register, Vol. 44 29 Nov 1979
- (b) Communication between U.S. Army Environmental Health Agency (RDS) Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground (CAPT. P. THIESS) and LANTDIV (Mr. A. Talts) of 14 July 1980.
- (c) COMLANTDIV letter "Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water" to Distribution List 114:WLC over 6280 dtd 18 July 1980
- (d.) COMLANTDIV letter 114:WLC over 6280 dtd 29 July 1980
- (e) COMLANTDIV letter 114:WLC over 6280 dtd 12 Feb 1982

Enclosure (1) USMC "Chronology of Water Contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune: entry for October 1980

The Atlantic Division, NAVFACEUGCOM has been connected to trihalomethane monitoring testing program since final regulations for control of total THM's were promulgated by EPA as an amendment to the National Primary Drinking Water Standards in 1979. Reference (a) refers.

LANTDIV ad U.S. AEHA, in reference (b) "Discussed plans to initiate subject program at various naval activities for development of subject (TTHM's) data base. This fact was later cited in LANTDIV letter 114:WLC over 6280 of 5 Feb 1982.

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COMLAUTDIV Htr 114:WLC over 6280 of 18 July 80 titled "Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water" noted it was an "initiation of a sampling program at impacted naval activities for TTHM -- see reference (c).

COMLAUTDIV Htr 114:WLC over 6280 of 25 July 1980, reference (d) initiated the monitoring program at MCB, Camp Lejeune

COMLAUTDIV Htr 114:WLC of 12 February 1982 reported to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune the data analysis of the TTHM monitoring program that was undertaken by the U.S. AEHA ingestion team for October 1980 through December 1981. Reference (e) refers.

Enclosure (1), a USMC created document, makes the statement "It is unknown whether the results of these test were reported to Camp Lejeune officials, and it is uncertain if base officials were apprised of the contamination."

Not only is their grammar incorrect, but the statement is patently untrue if the COMLAUTDIV correspondence cited is correct, which I assume it is. Reference (e) is a seven page report sent directly to the Commanding General, MCB, CLWC and not only laid out the test results, but also provided suggestions to reduce TTHM formation and the names of laboratories certified to do TTHM analysis in North Carolina.

This issue of a false and misleading statement in a document provided by the federal government is very disturbing to this officer and I have asked Headquarters Marine Corps to retract the statement, the U.S. Army is aware of the adverse impression it creates for their inspection services and I have previously notified Paul Smith of LAUTDIV's Environmental Division; however, with no response.

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I fail to understand why LAUTDIV, being as deeply involved in the TTHM program as they have been, has been quiescent in rectification of what I characterize as "Bum DOPE". LAUTDIV is aware of this statement which impugns not only the U.S. AEHA but also LAUTDIV and the Command does nothing to set the record straight. Am I missing something?

I thought Commander LAUTDIV letter of 12 Feb 1982 was very clear and I know that letter was in fact received by Camp Lejeune officials and were aware of the potential contamination the TTHM's predicted. What they did with that data is subject to speculation.

I believe the discovery of TTHM's in the potable water systems at CLWC was a clear wake up call of contamination and the system operators failed to act in a responsible manner.

My question for the Command is: Does LAUTDIVNAVFAC ENGCOR intend to take action to have the USMC correct this false and misleading material by retracting the statement? The U.S. AEHA did similar TTHM investigations for all military services in CONUS and overseas at the request of DoD. Only the Marine Corps is trying to skate out by trying to shift the burden elsewhere. That elsewhere is LAUTDIV.

Tort claim litigation for deaths and injuries are forth coming on this contamination issue. Perhaps your JAG might consider 32CFR 750.32 re: preservation of evidence. Please advise.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
 Tim A. Tamsett  
 MAJOR, USMC (retired)

CC: Chairman Levin, Senate Committee  
on Armed Services

CG, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine  
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[REDACTED] / [REDACTED]

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