

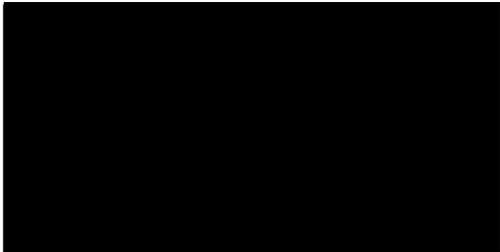


UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
PSC Box 20004
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-0004

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In reply refer to:
5720
BEMD

25 FEB 2003



This responds to your letter to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Lejeune. As the Commanding General's representative for environmental issues, I have been asked to respond to your letter and provide you with pertinent information.

In 1982, as a result of water quality testing, two compounds used in dry cleaning and degreasing operations, perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), were found in the drinking water systems serving certain housing areas at MCB, Camp Lejeune. When the Base confirmed that specific wells contained trace amounts of these substances, the wells were shut down. It is unknown when these substances first entered the wells.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a Public Health Service agency, completed a Public Health Assessment for MCB, Camp Lejeune in August 1997. The assessment included an evaluation of the potential health effects associated with exposure to TCE and PCE in drinking water. The ATSDR assessment concluded that the levels of TCE and PCE in the drinking water system were not expected to cause any adverse health effects in adults.

ATSDR is currently studying the potential health effects of these chemicals on unborn children. Previous studies have shown that children in the womb are the most sensitive to possible effects from exposure to TCE and PCE. In support of this study, the Marine Corps assisted ATSDR in reaching 12,500 former residents of base housing at Camp Lejeune who conceived children at the Base between 1968 and 1985.

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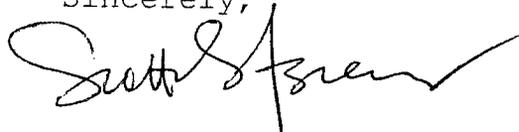
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There are multiple sources of information available regarding the ATSDR Public Health Study. If you have specific questions regarding the methodology or results of the Study, you should contact ATSDR directly by telephone at (888) 422-8737 ext 5132. ATSDR also provides updated information concerning the Study on-line at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/NEWS/lejeune.html>.

The United States Marine Corps has established a Camp Lejeune Public Health Study information line at: (877) 261-9782 and any questions you may have can be posed through email at: CLSurvey@hqmc.usmc.mil. There is also information available on-line at: <http://www.usmc.mil/camplejeune/clbwatersurveyinfo.nsf>. Additional information regarding assistance for your medical conditions may be available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). You can obtain information about the VA by calling (877) 222-8387 or by visiting the VA website at: <http://www.va.gov/>. If you wish to request a claim form, or if you have specific questions about the claims process, please contact the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 15) at: (202) 685-5921. To request specific documentation from MCB, Camp Lejeune, we ask that you please submit a written Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Camp Lejeune FOIA Office or contact Gunnery Sergeant Froemming at (910) 451-3563.

We hope that the information provided is useful and responsive to your inquiry. If you have any further questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact Public Affairs Office at 910-451-4655.

Sincerely,



SCOTT A. BREWER, PE
Director, Environmental Management
By direction of
the Commanding General

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