

# Outlying Landing Field Harold Harold, Florida Drinking Water Investigation Results

October 2021

The Navy has conducted sampling of drinking water wells within a designated area near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Harold for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

There were no detections of PFOA or PFOS within the sampling area.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at OLF Harold (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS may be present in the soil and/or groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the OLF within the sampling area (Figure 2).

Records indicate that many residents in the sampling area purchase their drinking water from East Milton Water System. The Navy is not asking to sample water provided by East Milton Water System. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells located in the sampling area.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

In 2020, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was completed at the OLFs in Florida associated with NAS Whiting Field. It identified potential historical releases of firefighting foam to the environment during activities such as testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. The PA confirmed that firefighting foam was released to the environment at one site, the Firehouse/Blockhouse. At this

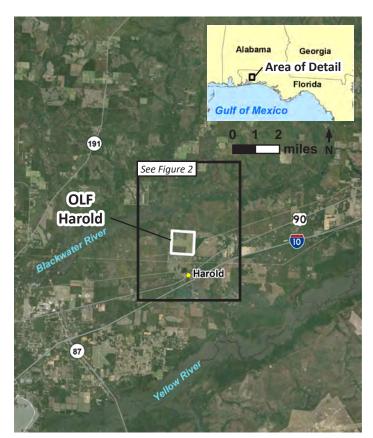
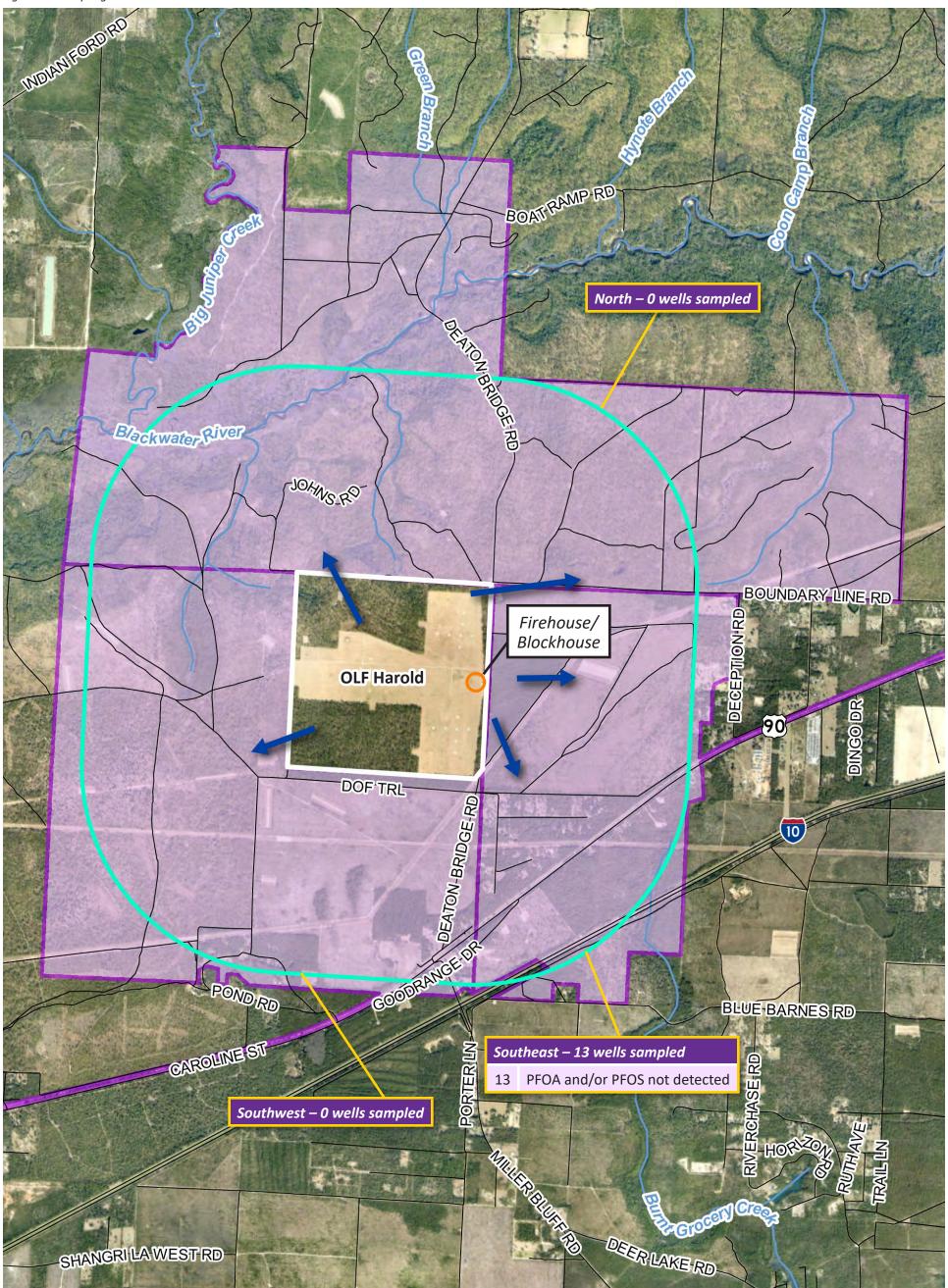


Figure 1 – OLF Harold

site, PFAS may be present in groundwater, and may have migrated off-base to nearby drinking water wells (Figure 2). This drinking water well investigation will allow us to address any current exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of potential

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



Potential PFAS release area

Base boundary

Surface water

→ Estimated groundwater flow direction

Downgradient 1-mile PFAS release buffer

Sampling area



releases of PFAS from OLF Harold. The Navy is conducting the investigation in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

#### **PFAS**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, they break down very slowly.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water. The EPA lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

#### **NAVY POLICY**

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a confirmed or potential release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a confirmed or potential release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is designated 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by groundwater wells in these designated areas. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

#### **DRINKING WATER RESULTS**

In June 2021, the Navy began off-base drinking water sampling near OLF Harold. Table 1 and Figure 2 summarize the sampling results from June to August 2021.

Table 1: Drinking Water Results near OLF Harold for PFOA and/or PFOS	
WELLS SAMPLED	13
No detections	13
Detections below the EPA lifetime health advisory	0
Detections above the EPA lifetime health advisory	0

PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected in any sample. The sampling area will not be expanded based on the results to date.

The Navy is still offering to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not previously been tested. Property owners can request sampling by contacting us at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353).

### **ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

Although PFOA and/or PFOS have not been detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in the sampled wells off-base, the Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS, which is conducted under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The next step is to initiate a Site Inspection at the potential PFAS release areas identified in the PA.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known, and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF



# Outlying Landing Field Santa Rosa Milton, Florida Drinking Water Investigation Results

October 2021

The Navy has conducted sampling of drinking water wells within a designated area near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Santa Rosa for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. There were no detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory within the sampling area.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at OLF Santa Rosa (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS may be present in the soil and/or groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the OLF within the sampling area (Figure 2).

Records indicate that many residents in the sampling area purchase their drinking water from East Milton Water System. The Navy is not asking to sample water provided by East Milton Water System. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells located in the sampling area.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. EPA lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

In 2020, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was completed at the OLFs in Florida associated with NAS Whiting Field. It identified potential historical releases of firefighting foam to the environment during activities such as testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. The PA confirmed that firefighting foam was released to the environment at one site, the Firehouse/Blockhouse. It also identified additional sites, the Aircraft Mishaps, where

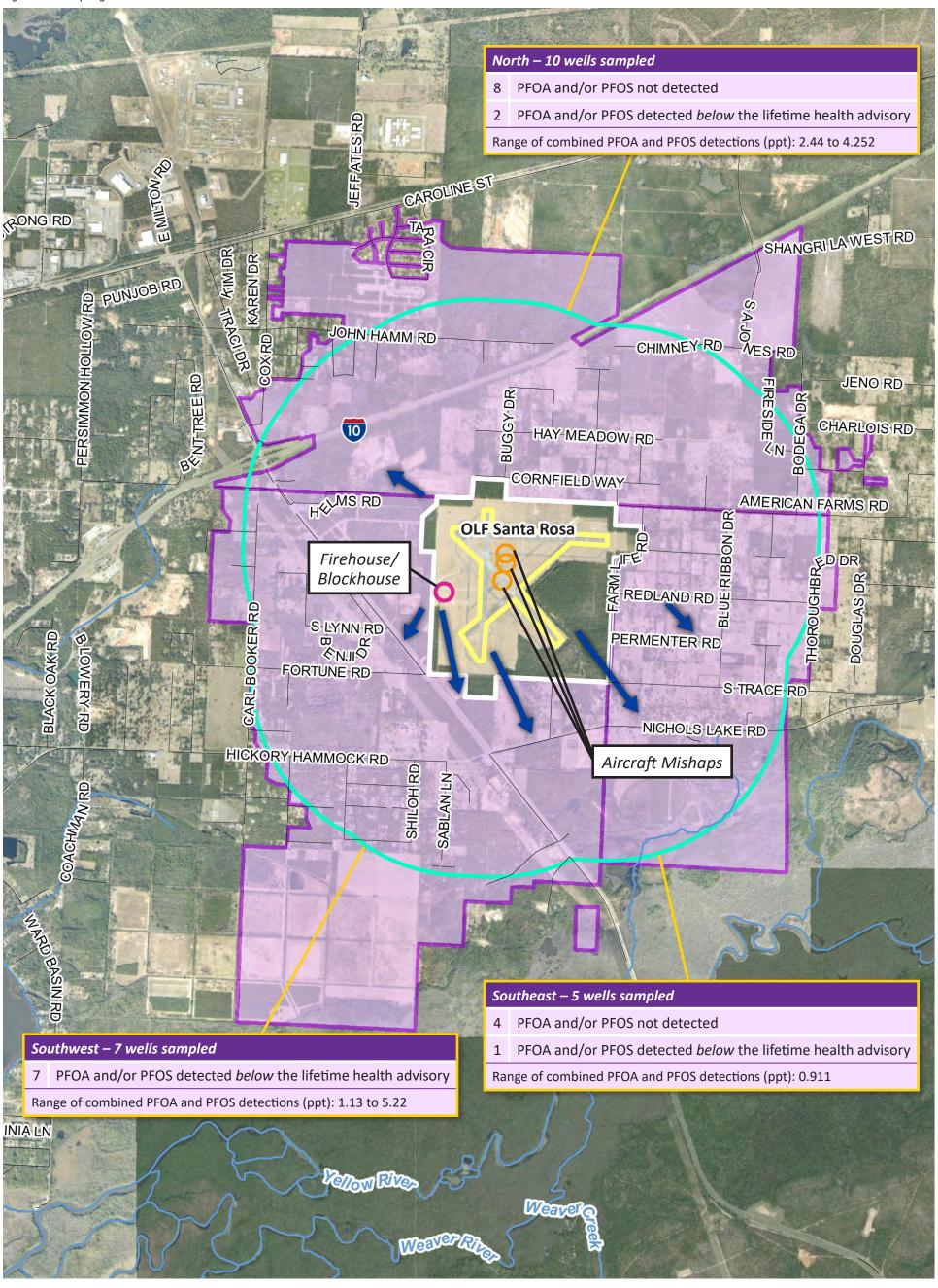


Figure 1 – OLF Santa Rosa

firefighting foam may have been released to the environment. At each of these sites, PFAS may be present in groundwater, and may have migrated off-base to nearby drinking water wells (Figure 2). This drinking water well investigation will allow us to address any current exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of confirmed or potential releases of PFAS from OLF Santa Rosa. The Navy is

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



Confirmed PFAS release area

Potential PFAS release area

Runways

Base boundary

Surface water

Estimated groundwater flow direction

Downgradient 1-mile PFAS release buffer

Sampling area



conducting the investigation in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

#### **PFAS**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, they break down very slowly.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water. The EPA lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

#### **NAVY POLICY**

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a confirmed or potential release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a confirmed or potential release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is designated 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by groundwater wells in these designated areas. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

#### **DRINKING WATER RESULTS**

In June 2021, the Navy began off-base drinking water sampling near OLF Santa Rosa. Table 1 and Figure 2 summarize the sampling results from June to August 2021.

Table 1: Drinking Water Results near OLF Santa Rosa for PFOA and/or PFOS	
WELLS SAMPLED	22
No detections	12
Detections below the EPA lifetime health advisory	10
Detections above the EPA lifetime health advisory	0

Of the 22 wells sampled, PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in 10 samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in any sample.

The Navy is still offering to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not previously been tested. Property owners can request sampling by contacting us at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353).

### **ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

Although PFOA and/or PFOS have not been detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in the sampled wells off-base, the Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS, which is conducted under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The next step is to initiate a Site Inspection at the potential and confirmed PFAS release areas identified in the PA.

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known, and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF



# Outlying Landing Field Spencer Pace, Florida Drinking Water Investigation Results

October 2021

The Navy has conducted sampling of drinking water wells within a designated area near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Spencer for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. There were no detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory within the sampling area.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at OLF Spencer (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS may be present in the soil and/or groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the OLF within the sampling area (Figure 2).

Records indicate that many residents in the sampling area purchase their drinking water from Pace Water System. The Navy is not asking to sample water provided by Pace Water System. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells located in the sampling area.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. EPA lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

In 2020, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was completed at the OLFs in Florida associated with NAS Whiting Field. It identified potential historical releases of firefighting foam to the environment during activities such as testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. The PA identified three sites, the 2005 Aircraft Mishap, the 2016 Hard Landing, and the Firehouse/Blockhouse, where firefighting foam may have been released to the

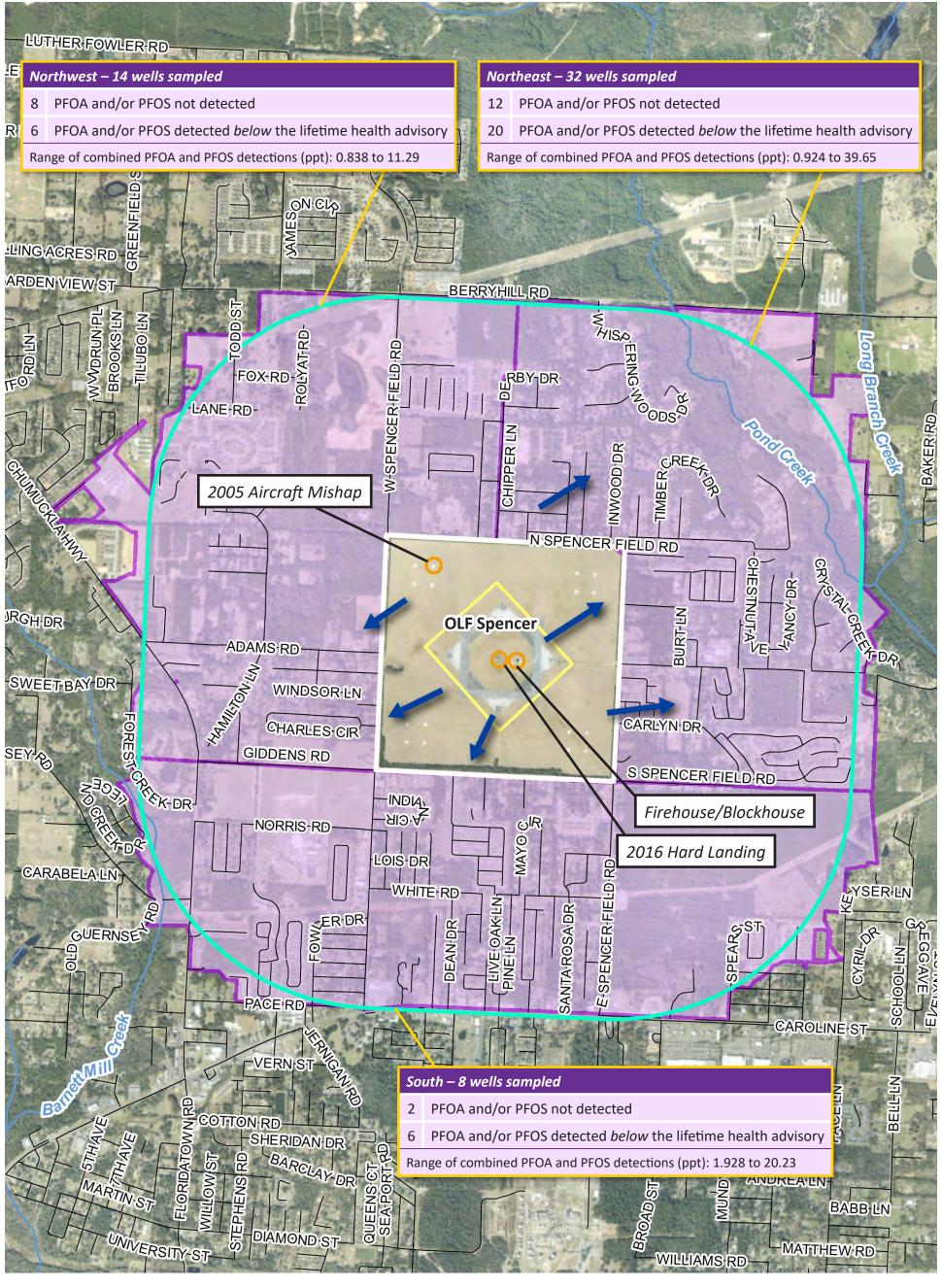


Figure 1 – OLF Spencer

environment. At each of these sites, PFAS may be present in groundwater, and may have migrated off-base to nearby drinking water wells (Figure 2). This drinking water well investigation will allow us to address any current exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of potential

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



Potential PFAS release area

Runways

Base boundary

Surface water

Estimated groundwater flow direction

Downgradient 1-mile PFAS release buffer

Sampling area



releases of PFAS from OLF Spencer. The Navy is conducting the investigation in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

#### **PFAS**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, they break down very slowly.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water. The EPA lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

#### **NAVY POLICY**

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a confirmed or potential release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a confirmed or potential release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is designated 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by groundwater wells in these designated areas. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

### **DRINKING WATER RESULTS**

In June 2021, the Navy began off-base drinking water sampling near OLF Spencer. Table 1 and Figure 2 summarize the sampling results from June to August 2021.

Table 1: Drinking Water Results near OLF Spencer for PFOA and/or PFOS	
WELLS SAMPLED	54
No detections	22
Detections below the EPA lifetime health advisory	32
Detections above the EPA lifetime health advisory	0

Of the 54 wells sampled, PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in 32 samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in any sample.

The Navy is still offering to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not previously been tested. Property owners can request sampling by contacting us at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353).

### **ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

Although PFOA and/or PFOS have not been detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in the sampled wells off-base, the Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS, which is conducted under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The next step is to initiate a Site Inspection at the potential PFAS release areas identified in the PA.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known, and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF



# Outlying Landing Field Pace Pace, Florida Drinking Water Investigation Results

October 2021

The Navy has conducted sampling of drinking water wells within a designated area near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Pace for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. There were no detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory within the sampling area.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at OLF Pace (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS may be present in the soil and/or groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the OLF within the sampling area (Figure 2).

Records indicate that many residents in the sampling area purchase their drinking water from Chumuckla Water System. The Navy is not asking to sample water provided by Chumuckla Water System. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells located in the sampling area.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. EPA lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

In 2020, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was completed at the OLFs in Florida associated with NAS Whiting Field. It identified potential historical releases of firefighting foam to the environment during activities such as testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. The PA identified one site, the Firehouse/Blockhouse, where AFFF may have been released to the environment. At this site, PFAS may be present in groundwater, and may have migrated off-base to nearby drinking water wells (Figure 2). This

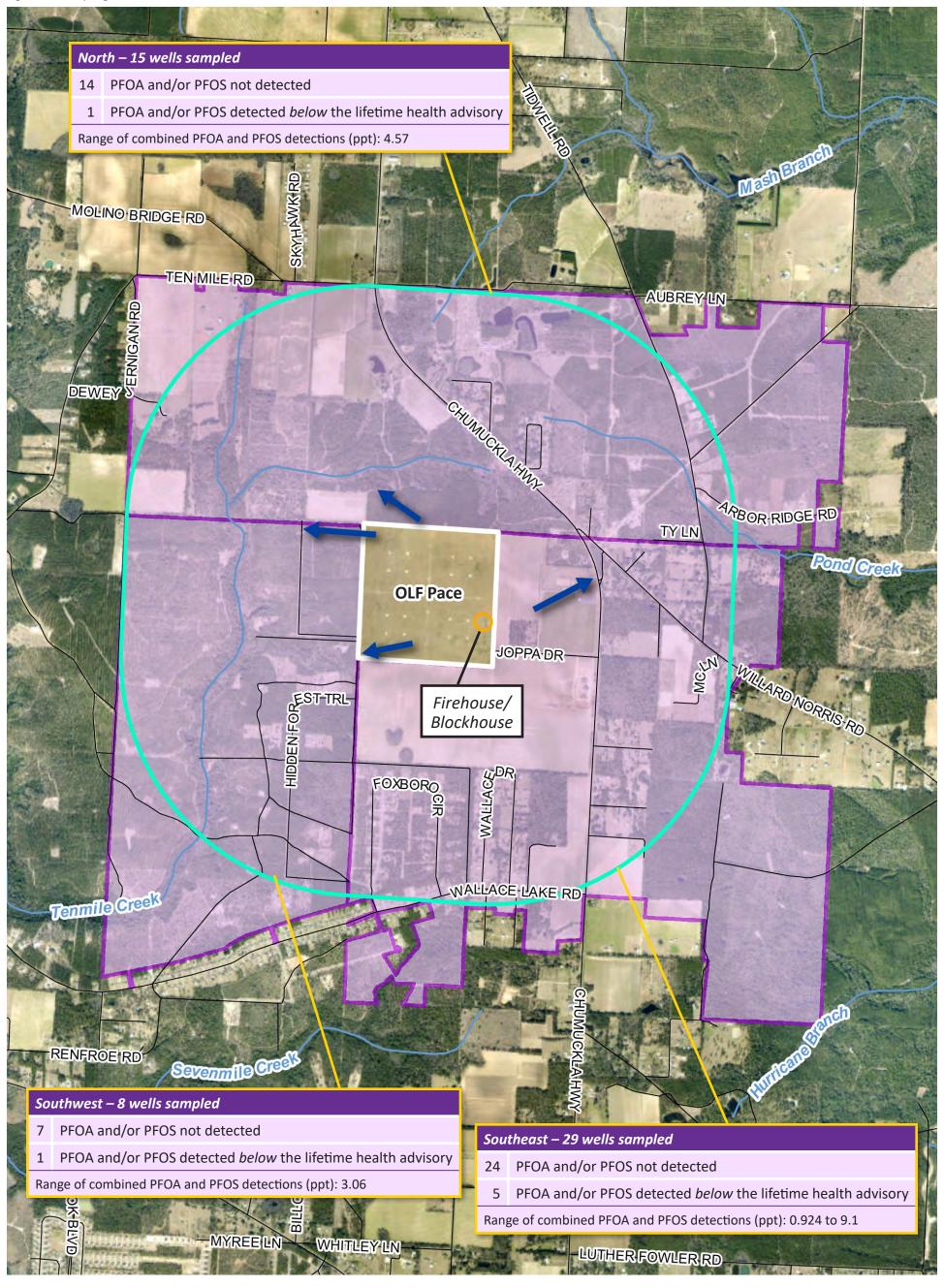


Figure 1 – OLF Pace

drinking water well investigation will allow us to address any current exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of potential releases of PFAS from OLF Pace. The Navy is conducting the investigation in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



Potential PFAS release area

Base boundary

Surface water

Estimated groundwater flow direction

Downgradient 1-mile PFAS release buffer

Sampling area



#### **PFAS**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, they break down very slowly.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water. The EPA lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

#### **NAVY POLICY**

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a confirmed or potential release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a confirmed or potential release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is designated 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by groundwater wells in these designated areas. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

## **DRINKING WATER RESULTS**

In June 2021, the Navy began off-base drinking water sampling near OLF Pace. Table 1 and Figure 2 summarize the sampling results from June to August 2021.

Table 1: Drinking Water Results near OLF Pace for PFOA and/or PFOS	
WELLS SAMPLED	52
No detections	45
Detections below the EPA lifetime health advisory	7
Detections above the EPA lifetime health advisory	0

Of the 52 wells sampled, PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in 7 samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in any sample. The Navy is still offering to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not previously been tested. Property owners can request sampling by contacting us at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353).

#### **ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

Although PFOA and/or PFOS have not been detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in the sampled wells off-base, the Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS, which is conducted under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The next step is to initiate a Site Inspection at the potential PFAS release areas identified in the PA.

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known, and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF



# Outlying Landing Field Holley Navarre, Florida Drinking Water Investigation Results

October 2021

The Navy has conducted sampling of drinking water wells within a designated area near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Holley for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. There were no detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory within the sampling area.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at OLF Holley (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS may be present in the soil and/or groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the OLF within the sampling area (Figure 2).

Records indicate that many residents in the sampling area purchase their drinking water from either Holley-Navarre Water System or Midway Water System. The Navy is not asking to sample water provided by Holley-Navarre Water System or Midway Water System. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells located in the sampling area.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. EPA lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

In 2020, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was completed at the OLFs in Florida associated with NAS Whiting Field. It identified potential historical releases of firefighting foam to the environment during activities such as testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. The PA identified two sites, the Firehouse/Blockhouse and the Former Burn Pile, where firefighting foam may have been released to the environment. At each of these sites, PFAS may

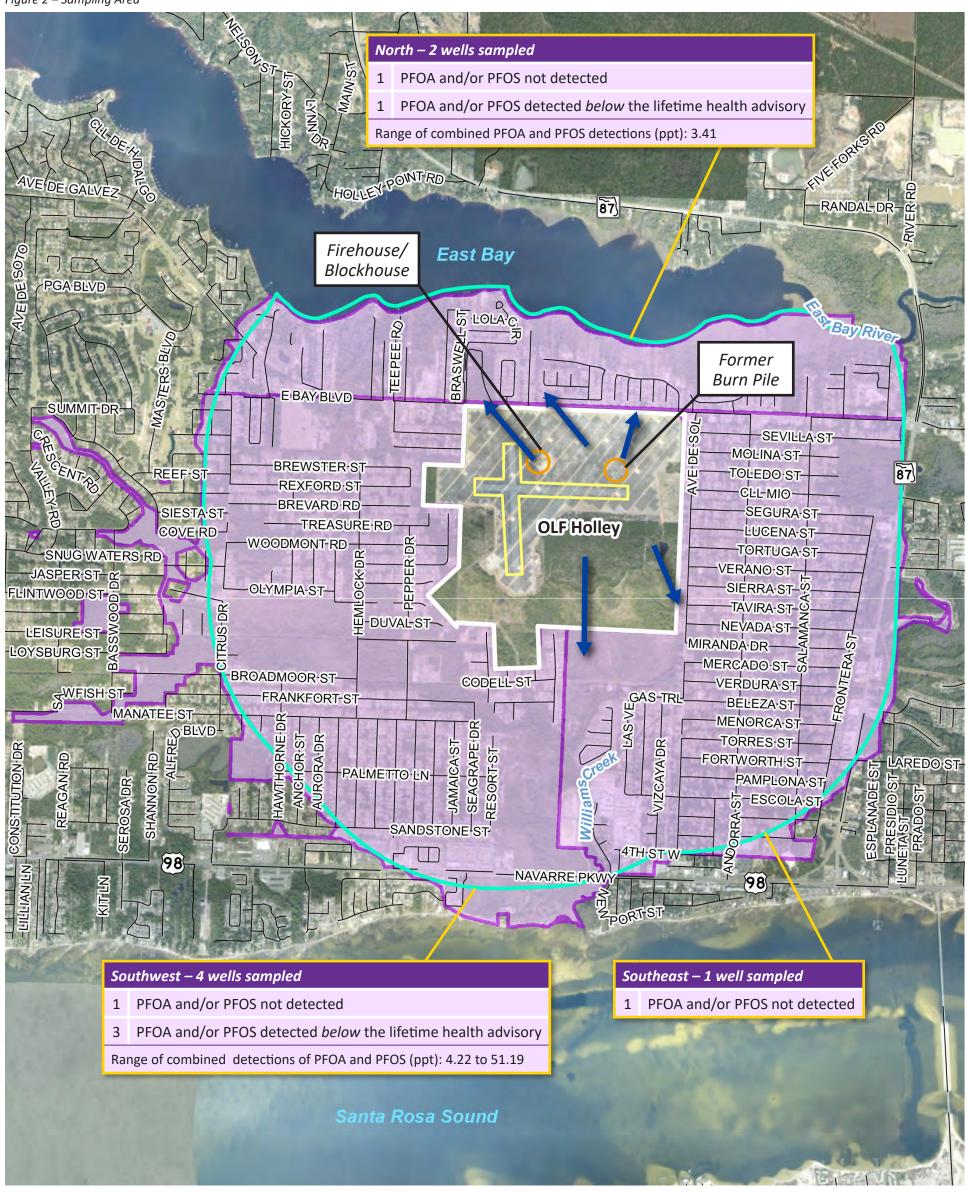


Figure 1 – OLF Holley

be present in groundwater, and may have migrated off-base to nearby drinking water wells (Figure 2). This drinking water well investigation will allow us to address any current exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. The Navy is performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of potential releases of PFAS from OLF Holley. The Navy is conducting the investigation in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



Potential PFAS release area

Runways

Base boundary

Surface water

→ Estimated groundwater flow direction

Downgradient 1-mile PFAS release buffer

Sampling area



#### **PFAS**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, they break down very slowly.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water. The EPA lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

### **NAVY POLICY**

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a confirmed or potential release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a confirmed or potential release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is designated 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by groundwater wells in these designated areas. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

### **DRINKING WATER RESULTS**

In June 2021, the Navy began off-base drinking water sampling near OLF Holley. Table 1 and Figure 2 summarize the sampling results from June to August 2021.

Table 1: Drinking Water Results near OLF Holley for PFOA and/or PFOS	
WELLS SAMPLED	7
No detections	3
Detections below the EPA lifetime health advisory	4
Detections above the EPA lifetime health advisory	0

Of the seven wells sampled, PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in four samples. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in any sample. The Navy is still offering to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not previously been tested. Property owners can request sampling by contacting us at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353).

#### **ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

Although PFOA and/or PFOS have not been detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in the sampled wells off-base, the Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS, which is conducted under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The next step is to initiate a Site Inspection at the potential PFAS release areas identified in the PA.

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known, and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF