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Beale AFB is committed to ensuring all men, women, and children who live or work on base are protected from environmental contaminants and receive safe drinking water. On 16 March 2021, members from the 9th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, collected representative drinking water samples throughout Beale to test for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). Samples were sent to Eurofins Eaton Analytical (EEA) Laboratory, and tested using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) method 537.1.

On 16 April 2021, results were received from EEA lab and revealed all samples as non-detect for PFOS and PFOA in the drinking water on Beale AFB.

Below are FAQ's, about PFOS and PFOA

What are PFOS and PFOA?

- They are human-made compounds that do not occur naturally in the environment
- PFOS and PFOA are fully fluorinated, organic compounds. They are the two PFASs that have been produced in the largest amounts within the United States since the 1940s
- PFOS and PFOA are part of a subset of PFASs known as perfluorinated alkyl acids.

Where are PFOS and PFOA found?

- **Food** packaged in PFAS-containing materials, processed with equipment that used PFAS, or grown in PFAS-contaminated soil or water.
- **Commercial household products**, including stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams (a major source of groundwater contamination at airports and military bases where firefighting training occurs).
- **Workplace**, including production facilities or industries (e.g., chrome plating, electronics manufacturing or oil recovery) that use PFAS.
- **Drinking water**, typically localized and associated with a specific facility (e.g., manufacturer, landfill, wastewater treatment plant, firefighter training facility).
- **Living organisms**, including fish, animals and humans, where PFAS have the ability to build up and persist over time.

How are people exposed to PFOS and PFOA?

- People can be exposed to low levels of PFAS through food, which can become contaminated through: contaminated soil and water used to grow the food, food packaging containing PFAS, and equipment that used PFAS during food processing.
- People can also be exposed to PFAS chemicals if they are released during normal use, biodegradation, or disposal of consumer products that contain PFAS.
- People may be exposed to PFAS used in commercially-treated products to make them stain- and water-repellent or nonstick. These goods include carpets, leather and apparel, textiles, paper and packaging materials, and non-stick cookware.

- People who work at PFAS production facilities, or facilities that manufacture goods made with PFAS, may be exposed in certain occupational settings or through contaminated air.
- Drinking water can be a source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products, or an oil refinery, airfield or other location at which PFAS were used for firefighting.

What are the Health Effects for PFOS and PFOA?

- In May 2016, EPA established drinking water health advisories of 70 parts per trillion (0.07 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)) for the combined concentrations of PFOS and PFOA.
- Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals.
- The most consistent findings from human epidemiology studies are increased cholesterol levels among exposed populations, with more limited findings related to: infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, cancer (for PFOA), and thyroid hormone disruption (for PFOS).

For more information, about PFOS and PFOA visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>