

FORT HUACHUCA

2003 Consumer Confidence Report



Important Health Information

We continually monitor the drinking water for contaminants. Our water is safe to drink; however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some infants or elderly persons can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on some appropriate methods to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Monitoring Your Drinking Water

Our water system uses only EPA-approved laboratory methods to analyze your drinking water. Our personnel take water samples from the distribution system and residents' taps; samples are then shipped to an accredited, Arizona certified laboratory, where full spectrums of water quality analyses are performed.

This Consumer Confidence Report was prepared by the Physical Science Technician of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Directorate of Installation Support. For additional information regarding this report or drinking water quality, please contact the Physical Science Technician at 520-538-0606 or DSN 879-0606 or send email to dis-enrd@hua.army.mil

For questions regarding the environment or natural resources on Fort Huachuca, please contact the Environmental and Natural Resources office at 520-533-3120

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

Where Does Fort Huachuca's Drinking Water Come From?

The drinking water being delivered to you is pumped from a regional groundwater aquifer located in the Upper San Pedro River Basin. This aquifer lies beneath portions of Cochise County and Mexico. The water system is owned and managed by Fort Huachuca and consists of source, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities. All of our drinking water is treated with chlorine and fluoride to ensure the health of every consumer. Chlorine acts as a disinfectant to prevent bacterial contamination. Fluoride is added at sufficient levels as recommended by the American Dental Association (ADA) to prevent dental carries (cavities).

General Information About Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural activities, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may originate from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or by visiting their website at www.epa.gov.

WATER QUALITY

Fort Huachuca 2003 Summary of Water Quality Results

Contaminant	Last Sample Date	Unit	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowed (MCL)	Detected Level	Range of Values Detected	Minimum Detection Level (MDL)	Violation (Yes/No)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<u>Radionuclides:</u>									
Alpha emitters	2000	pCi/l	0	15	5.3	ND - 5.3	3	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2001	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.27 ²	ND - 0.36	0.01	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2001	ppb	0	AL = 15	4.7 ³	ND - 8.9	2	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Inorganic Chemicals:</u>									
Fluoride	2002	ppm	4	4	1.3	ND - 1.3	0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2003	ppm	10	10	1.3	0.6-1.3		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Volatile Organic Chemicals:</u>									
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes]	2003	ppb	n/a	100	26.9	6.0 - 26.9		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	2003	ppb	n/a	60	2.4	ND-2.4	1.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring	2003	ppb	n/a	n/a	ND	ND	varies	Yes	From herbicide and insecticide use, gasoline additives, explosives and solid fuel propellants
Total Coliform	2003	Col/100 ml	0	1	3/20	ND-Positive	0	Yes	Naturally present in the Environment

Water-Quality Table Key and Footnotes

AL = Action Level MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
 ND = none detected MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
 Col/100ml = Colonies present in 100 ml sample

MRDL = Highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control for microbial contaminants.

MRDLG = The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

1. MDL (minimum detection limit) values have been provided for contaminants that include samples with values of ND. This is the lowest level the lab can detect.
2. 90% of samples collected for copper analysis were less than the detected level shown. No samples had copper detected at a level greater than the Action Level of 1.3 ppm.
3. 90% of samples collected for lead analysis were less than the detected level shown. No samples had lead detected at a level greater than the Action Level of 15 ppb.

How to Read The Table

Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The results of tests performed in 2003, or earlier as indicated, are presented in the table above. Only those contaminants that were detected in the water (within the last five years) are listed in the table. Many other contaminants were tested for and not found. In 2003 Fort Huachuca's contracted laboratory analyzed 276 samples for 54 different contaminants. In addition, the Directorate of Installation Support's Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contractor monitors chlorine and fluoride levels on a regular basis. For a complete list of all contaminants regulated by the EPA, please see 40 CFR 141.153.

The column marked **GOAL** shows the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG. This is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

The column marked **MAXIMUM ALLOWED** is the Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL. This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

The column marked **DETECTED LEVEL** shows the highest results observed in our drinking water during the most recent round of required testing. **MAJOR SOURCES** provides an explanation of the typical natural or man-made origins of the contaminant.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Violations

Total Coliforms: In November, three of twenty samples tested positive for Total Coliforms. This was a non-acute violation, meaning that there was no immediate risk to public health. "Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potential harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and that was a warning of potential problems." All repeat samples tested negative for Total Coliform.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring: The Fort Huachuca Public Water System failed to complete two sets of samples by the end of 2003 as mandated by the EPA. Sampling was completed in the first quarter of 2004. All constituents in both rounds of sampling for the Unregulated Contaminants were Non-Detectable. The constituents included the following: 2,4-dinitrotoluene, 2,6-dinitrotoluene, Acetochlor, 4,4'-DDE, EPTC, Molinate, MTBE, Nitrobenzene, Perchlorate, Terbacil, DCPA Mono-acid and di-acid degradate