

Air Force PFOS/PFOA Snapshot

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are synthetic fluorinated organic chemicals that were used in many industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, some food packaging and specialized foam.

Commonly grouped with other synthetic fluorinated chemicals using the umbrella term Perfluorinated Compounds – or PFCs – PFOS and PFOA are the only two compounds of this group with established Environmental Protection Agency health advisories for drinking water.

Significant Information

- In 1970, the Air Force began using the firefighting agent Aqueous Film Forming Foam, or AFFF, which contained both PFOS and PFOA.
- AFFF is the most efficient extinguishing method for petroleum-based fires and is widely used across the firefighting industry, to include all commercial airports, to protect people and property.
- On May 19, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency established a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS and/or PFOA in drinking water. The health advisory is non-regulatory and not enforceable; however, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) the Air Force uses it to determine an acceptable level of PFOS/PFOA in drinking water.

IDENTIFY



39 BRAC
90 Active Duty/Reserve
74 Air National Guard



99%
Preliminary Assessment
Reports Complete

190 Installations
Expected to Require Further Site Inspection

RESPOND



Ongoing Air Force Drinking Water Mitigation:

- Bottled water
- Whole-house filtration
- Municipal water supply hookup
- Alternate water supplies

\$210M PFOS/PFOA Actions to date
investigations | mitigations

BRAC

K.I. Sawyer
March
Pease
Plattsburgh
Wurtsmith
Reese

ACTIVE/RESERVE

Dover
Eielson
Ellsworth
Fairchild
JB Cape Cod
JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst
Mountain Home
New Boston
Peterson
Wright-Patterson

ANG

Horsham
Toledo
Gabreski

PREVENT

174/176
Installations
transitioned to new
C6 AFFF

\$4.7M
Cost for ecologic
system kits for fire
vehicles

31.4%
Installations finished
retrofitting vehicles
with ecologic system
kits



979,000
Gallons of legacy
AFFF incinerated

\$10.8M
Cost to date to replace
and incinerate legacy
AFFF in stockpiles and
fire trucks