



VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 16-9

December 2008

Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

The Department of the Navy has recently initiated a mail campaign to notify veterans stationed at the "Camp Lejeune" Marine Corps Base in North Carolina of toxic chemicals in the drinking water between 1957 and 1987. The letter invites service members and their families to participate in a registry of who may have consumed contaminated drinking water during that period.

Contamination

The following solvents were found in the drinking water at Camp Lejeune Base:

- Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethylene, from an off-base dry cleaning firm
- Trichloroethylene, from leaking underground storage tanks and past disposal practices

Impact

It is not clear, at this time, that any of the military service members or their families were exposed to chemicals in drinking water at levels that would cause health problems.

VA Benefits Associated With Exposure

- There are currently no health screenings or health benefits associated with this potential exposure. However, veterans who may have been exposed are encouraged to apply for enrollment, and if enrolled, should discuss any specific concerns with their VA healthcare provider.
- VA providers may direct concerned veterans to VHA Environmental Health program staff located at each medical center. These staff can offer informed discussions and answer health-related exposure questions.
- Veterans are encouraged to file a claim for VA disability compensation for any injury/illness they feel is related to their military service.

Additional Information

Veterans who received the letter from the Department of the Navy may visit the following websites for the most current updates:

- <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/index.html>
- www.marines.mil/clsurvey/index.html

For more information, call the Department of Navy toll-free at (877) 261-9782.