

6 July 2001

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Office of the Chief of Staff
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine
Attn: Lt. Col. Wayne R. Smetana, USA
5158 Blackhawk Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5403

SUBJ: FOIA Request: Records of U.S. Army Environmental Health Agency Inspection Team, Fort McPherson, Ga., Environmental Inspection Reports for Inspection of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N. Carolina during the Period October 1980 - December 1981 for total Trihalomethanes.

On 14 July 1980 Captain P. Thiess U.S. Army was in contact with Mr. A. Talts at Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command at Norfolk, Virginia discussing the establishment of a total Trihalomethane monitoring program at various naval activities leading to a TTHM data base for potable water systems in CONUS and Overseas. It was agreed at that time the U.S. AEHA (RD-S) Laboratory, Ft. McPherson would perform the TTHM analysis for MCB, Camp Lejeune.

LANTDIV, by letter 114:WLC 6280 of 29 July 1980 confirmed the inspection visit to Marine Corps Base, CLWC and the monitoring program by U.S. AEHA was initiated in October 1980 and terminated in December 1981. The Commander, Atlantic Division reported the data base summary to his senior Command in Washington D.C. by letter of 5 February 1982 and notified the Commanding General, MCB, CLWC of the data analysis developed by the U.S. AEHA team by letter of

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12 February 1982. The letter to CG, MCB, Camp Lejeune from the Navy was informative in that it discussed corrective measures to prevent/reduce TTHM's formation and made very specific recommendations regarding monitoring and evaluation and concluded by noting the availability of several certified laboratories (North Carolina certified) that could be utilized to include the AEHA lab at Aberdeen, since the McPherson lab was gearing down their TTHM monitoring. What the Marine Corps did with the monitoring data developed by the McPherson inspection team is unknown. Whether they did further evaluation through laboratory analysis is unknown as well, at least at that time.

Enclosed is a copy of a recent letter I sent to MCB, CLUC that includes a quote from a Marine Corps internet site that makes it appear that the Marine Command was left in the dark about the existence of TTHM's and that the AEHA inspection team was at CLUC from October 1980 through December 1981 and never communicated its findings to the Marine Command.

It is obvious from the Navy correspondence I have quoted that the Commanding General of MCB, CLUC was informed at the end of the inspection. Whether the AEHA directly communicated their interim/final findings is not known and perhaps can be determined from the inspection team documents requested. These records should be available at APG.

Why an official Marine Corps website would make such an assertion in view of the existing documentation is very puzzling, but in keeping with the USMC attitude to the hazardous waste/VOC contamination/TTHM problems present at that time. This request is made on a fee waiver basis.

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CC: CG, MCB (Att: AC/S, EMD)

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HQMC (LFL)

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COMLANT DIV

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Chairman Levin, Senate Committee

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