



## **JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE Joint**

**Information Center**

**(808) 471-5013**

[www.navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://www.navy.mil/jointbasewater)

**[5/19/2022]**

00:00:03:27 - 00:00:45:00

Capt Darren Guenther

Hello everyone, and welcome to the water update for May 19. I'm Captain Darren Gunther. Chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. I'd like to first thank Commander Aleah McHenry for filling in for me last week. Thank you, Aleah. Today marks the 172nd day of consecutive support to you in ensuring clean water for your use. Now, one of the programs it's very important in our ongoing efforts to ensure that you continue to have clean drinking water is our long term monitoring and testing programs.

00:00:45:23 - 00:01:11:14

Capt Darren Guenther

Many of you are already familiar with that program since we talk about it quite a bit on this program. But we still get some questions from you. So we're going to have Commander Rob Kleinman on the program today. He is an engineer and he's in charge of the rapid response teams as well as the overall engineering teams. Charged with keeping the water safe.

00:01:11:28 - 00:01:48:10

Capt Darren Guenther

He'll be here to talk a little more about the long term monitoring and testing regime and program. What it is, what they're seeing and why it matters to you. Before we bring Rob on, though, I'd like to go to our map so you can see from the map behind me, it remains in the green, signifying that all zones on the Navy water distribution system remain certified with water and it's safe to drink and safe for all uses.

00:01:48:20 - 00:02:21:17

Capt Darren Guenther

As certified by the Hawaii Department of Health. That includes all 19 zones as we've sort of broken them up and described them as on our navy water distribution system includes 24 different distinct neighborhoods out there and almost... 9,715 homes I think is our total on that navy water distribution system includes obviously all the facilities and buildings they're in as well.



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Capt Darren Guenther

So water remains clean, safe to drink and safe for all uses as certified by the Hawaii Department Of Health. OK, what I'd like to do now is talk a little more about our long term monitoring, and we've been focusing a lot on this program to ensure that the water remains clean and safe for you. And one of the individuals that we've had hard at work in leading the teams that are charged with that is Commander Rob Kleinman.

00:02:56:29 - 00:03:12:24

Capt Darren Guenther

So we're well into this program in fact, we've completed month one. We've almost completed month two, we're pretty much there and we're starting in month three of our long term monitoring process. So, Rob, thank you for coming on. I appreciate you being here.

00:03:12:25 - 00:03:13:29

CDR Robert Kleinman

Yeah, absolutely. Sure. I appreciate it.

00:03:14:13 - 00:03:20:12

Capt Darren Guenther

So the first question is, if you could go over what is long term monitoring?

00:03:20:12 - 00:03:52:06

CDR Robert Kleinman

So the long term mining program was a it was underpinned by an interagency agreement after we had the department of Health issue, the amended health advisories, in our search zones to to ensure that we had, you know, continued testing and evaluation that to provide the confidence that the water meant safe so safe to consume. So over a two year period of time after each zone was amended, we are going to do continuous monitoring through sampling of our homes, facilities and distribution system.

00:03:53:03 - 00:04:16:11

CDR Robert Kleinman

So as you talked about, we're finishing up month two and we're starting month three. It's been broken out over that 24 month period of time. We're months one, two and three. We're testing at each of those iterations, testing 5% of our homes and facilities and all our schools, CDC, CDHs, medical and dental facilities. And that's been done each iteration month one, two and three and then once four through 24 for the following 21 months.



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CDR Robert Kleinman

There's four periods we'll do another 40% of our homes and facilities and in each period we also do our schools or CDHs, CDCs, medical and dental facilities. So all in all we're gonna be doing about 6000 more samples through that two year period of time.

00:04:33:00 - 00:04:49:22

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, so a lot of we're well into this month one complete taking samples in months to almost complete with samples, some results maybe even some yet into month three. So what have we seen? What are we learning and what's it mean?

00:04:50:01 - 00:05:12:03

CDR Robert Kleinman

So we've taken to date during our LTM program a long term monitoring program. We've taken just over 1700 samples. So that's in the last two months. About 1700 samples have been taken to date and we've seen that the water remains safe to consume. We have identified a handful of exceedances but those have been more focused on the, it's called premise plumbing.

00:05:12:03 - 00:05:30:15

CDR Robert Kleinman

So that's really more of a fixture or an isolated slip, but nothing not in the distribution system or system to say that the water coming from the... shaft is our sole source has any concerns and the water remains safe. We also have not seen any contamination associated to a JP five release in the water system at all.

00:05:31:11 - 00:05:59:03

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, that's good news. Certainly. So you said 1700 full drinking water sample tests over the last just two months alone, and that's on top of several thousand other samples. I think I've heard the number 3500 samples total under the, you know, the certification system that was agreed to between I think EPA and Department of Health and the Navy as well.



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Capt Darren Guenther

But, you know, 1700 samples just in the last two months. Can you speculate as to how many samples would be taken in that time period in normal conditions on a say, a neighborhood outside that's not on base, whether that's in Hawaii or on the mainland, how many samples, do they get checking their water?

00:06:19:08 - 00:06:46:19

CDR Robert Kleinman

Yeah, sir, I can't speak to the exact number that a purveyor would be doing that. But I can tell you that the ore magnitude is exponential that we've been doing. You know, we know we because we're doing percentage based. So each of our neighborhoods, it's a percentage of that particular neighborhood. But we have, you know, like, say one of our larger neighborhoods, you know, it could be over 100 samples being taken in that neighborhood per iteration where you might have a handful of samples maybe at a standard and not the same periodicity that we're doing now.

00:06:47:00 - 00:07:06:10

CDR Robert Kleinman

And I do want to remind everybody, just all these samples are being sent to a mainland laboratory, you know, the third party laboratory that are certified by the Hawaii Department of Health. So, you know, those results are being taken, shipped off and tested off island by a third party certified lab.

00:07:06:28 - 00:07:22:11

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, so not many comparatively, this exponentially larger number of samples give us, I think, confidence that we know what is certainly what is in the water and by extension, what isn't.

00:07:22:15 - 00:07:23:05

CDR Robert Kleinman

Exactly, sir.

00:07:23:16 - 00:07:36:29

Capt Darren Guenther

So there have been out of the thousands of samples taken, there had been a handful of exceedances. Can you are any of those exceedances first of all, attributable to the fuel spill? I think you mentioned this.



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CDR Robert Kleinman

Absolutely, sir. We've had nine exceedances to date and none of them are contributed or attributable to a fuel release, JP five release. The preponderance of those releases have been led and which is not surprising, but the level because we're just the level of sampling that we are doing, we kind of expect that we would identify, you know, usually we call premise plumbing and that's really the a plumbing related item at the location and so we're talking a faucet or a fixture might have had picked up some kind of something and that we're picking it up.

00:08:12:00 - 00:08:16:15

CDR Robert Kleinman

And that's what we've been seeing to date. Something looking at a faucet, nothing to do with the system itself.

00:08:16:27 - 00:08:29:00

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, so really faucets not necessarily from anything broader. There's no, our experts don't have any broad concern on these what you're seeing now.

00:08:29:00 - 00:08:47:21

CDR Robert Kleinman

Yes sir, and I would say the broad concern, both as a system, no, no concern with the system and even more like say to a facility, we might have an individual exit into the faucet. We'll take other samples of the faucets in that building as well to make sure that there's nothing with that building. Or home so we can really pinpoint it's that specific faucet had a concern.

00:08:48:07 - 00:09:10:29

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, on a slightly different topic, we've heard from some residents that there may be seeing a sheen on their water in question. Have your rapid response teams that have gone out and respond to each and every call that we get. Are they seeing this? And if there is something out there, what could be causing this?



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CDR Robert Kleinman

Is there. So the first one to talk about this, the rapid response team. So when we receive a call of a concern resident or concerned occupants, we if they would like we will we can then walk them through how to maybe do a flushing of their home just over the phone or if they'd like we can come out there and perform a flush and describe just cycling the water through this to make sure that if there's any stagnant water that maybe it was in the facility itself that we're kind of make sure refresh that and bring in the distribution water, which we know is good.

00:09:36:20 - 00:10:05:12

CDR Robert Kleinman

And then we can also do a test through a rapid analyzer, really a screen test to see if there's any hydrocarbon really looking for any contaminants associated to a jet fuel or JP five release, which we can do the same day for those residents have had concerns of like maybe a sheen or oily substance. It appears that we're not able to replicate all those, but we are investigating each one of those because there might be something else in the, something on a hot water heater, but we're unsure about that.

00:10:05:12 - 00:10:19:17

CDR Robert Kleinman

So we're taking a hard look at all those options because we want to make sure and treat everybody's concern seriously. But at this point, we have not had any concerns with the water system at all.

00:10:19:28 - 00:10:36:09

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, and again, when people do say machine, sometimes they think fuel, your rapid response teams go out with a rapid tester to test every time that you go in and there have been no hits.

00:10:36:09 - 00:10:51:20

CDR Robert Kleinman

Yes, sir. And actually just to make sure and clarify, we do take a sample when we bring it back to the laboratory on the base so we don't you're not actually doing a sample on site, but there's been zero indications of petroleum or fuel like substance in the water. And for those that have not seen it, it's been posted until a couple of months ago.



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CDR Robert Kleinman

There's a flier here that's also on the website. And you write, So Sheens aren't always petroleum based if you're based, there are bio sheens as well. A bacteria that could be not harmful to consume could also create sheen. So this is actually a really good reference guide to take a look at. And you can do some simple home tests like trying to break it up to see how the sheen kind of breaks apart and comes back together to see if it's a biofilm or not.

00:11:15:27 - 00:11:21:24

CDR Robert Kleinman

And then after you do this and you can also maybe do some flushing in your house, we still have concerns. Please give us a call so that we can take a look at your home.

00:11:22:02 - 00:11:53:01

Capt Darren Guenther

Yeah. So really any concerns whatsoever that's what your team is standing by for. You know, call that EOC number for the rapid response team and they'll come out and help you through that. And frankly, we want to know any resident concern out there so that we can get to the bottom of what it is. But again, we have had zero indications from any of those tests, from the long term monitoring or from the rapid tests that go back to your laboratory here on base of any indication?

00:11:53:02 - 00:11:54:27

Capt Darren Guenther

(yes sir) of fuel contamination, is that correct?

00:11:54:28 - 00:12:06:05

CDR Robert Kleinman

That's correct, sir. So those 1700 samples and almost 300 samples of the Rapid Response Team have done have not seen anything to show concern in the water. OK.

00:12:06:26 - 00:12:15:13

Capt Darren Guenther

Rob, thank you for coming. I really appreciate it. Thanks for your continuing efforts to, you know, on behalf of our community and on behalf of keeping us all safe. Thank you.



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00:12:15:16 - 00:12:15:27

CDR Robert Kleinman

Thank you, sir.

00:12:16:03 - 00:12:43:23

Capt Darren Guenther

OK, thanks. What I'd like to do now is move on to a couple of questions that we've gotten. The first question relates somewhat to what we talked about in terms of long term monitoring. It's a question from Quinntera and Quinntera simply asks or states, I can't find the results. So I think we can help you out there.

00:12:44:08 - 00:13:16:27

Capt Darren Guenther

Thank you for your question. The results of the long term monitoring and testing can be found on our Safe Waters Web page. That's [jbphh-safewaters.org](http://jbphh-safewaters.org). We've also, though, prepared an infographic for you. It's this right here, and I'm going to ask our team to repost that on the joint base Facebook page so you can see it and it's going to walk you through in five easy steps how to navigate that website.

00:13:17:11 - 00:13:41:03

Capt Darren Guenther

And pull your results off of that website so you can see what's on there. Not all zones are posted yet so we send those tests off to the Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency Certified Labs, which are all on the mainland. They take several weeks to run all of those tests and then send them back to us.

00:13:41:03 - 00:14:10:12

Capt Darren Guenther

And then before they're posted, those results go to the whole Department of Health. So they can certify as well that all of the data within those results is good and that we're seeing the same thing that they're seeing. And then we post those results. So again, the graphic is going to be up on our Facebook page. Take a look at that and hopefully that will help you to navigate through that page and find what you're looking for.





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Capt Darren Guenther

Where can we get help? Great question and thank you for that. I think we, the Navy has paid out over 90, well over 90% of the claims that we've gotten. So if you're not in that category we want to help you. So for the Navy side, if you're having an issue, please first reach out to your command CPPA to verify that the claim is in the system and they may be able to see exactly where it is in that process.

00:15:13:09 - 00:16:14:06

Capt Darren Guenther

Now if there's additional questions or that's not satisfying regarding the Navy to claims, please call the 24/7 hotline so to speak. It's 8333306622. Or you can call a local TLA hotline with our regional support center that's the new name for the PSD. That one started working hours at 8084712314 or 2330 or via email. Again this is for Navy personnel claims at [w\\_prh\\_psd-emergency-water-tla@navy.mil](mailto:w_prh_psd-emergency-water-tla@navy.mil). and a lot of numbers there, long address.

00:16:14:17 - 00:16:44:29

Capt Darren Guenther

These are on our Water Resources website as well so you can find it there. Now guidance for our service partners, the Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Army can be found on that Water Resources Web page or please reach out to your individual service finance center for help. OK, that was our water update for today. Please join us next Thursday.

00:16:44:29 - 00:17:35:20

Capt Darren Guenther

Same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email questions to [cnrhpa@gmail.com](mailto:cnrhpa@gmail.com). Don't forget to check the water info website where you can get all the phone numbers and addresses that you need at [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater) and please check out the latest water data at our [jbphh-safewaters.org](http://jbphh-safewaters.org) and you have a handy guide for navigating that website right here, which is going to be on the Facebook page and should be posted also on our water resources page if you need it, make sure also to check out the good stuff at [greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou](http://greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou).



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Capt Darren Guenther

Especially with a weekend coming up. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and one Ohana. Stay safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other and we'll see you next Thursday.