

FORT SHAFTER



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2003



The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all community water systems to provide, to their customers, an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). CCRs are designed to educate the public on where their water originates, where potential problems can come from, and what is being done to ensure that their water is safe to drink. The US Army Garrison, Hawaii is providing this report as a service to the community in conjunction with this requirement.

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How does the CCR work?

An essential part of the CCR is the table showing the highest level of each detected substance (see inside). There are three columns on the table which should be given special attention: the maximum contaminant level (MCL), the level detected, and whether a violation occurred. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set MCLs for a number of substances, which may be found in drinking water. All of the substances listed in the table are below the MCLs set by EPA. The US Army Garrison, Hawaii continues to provide some of the cleanest and safest drinking water available in Hawaii!

What is the source of the water?

The Fort Shafter water system is served by two 12-inch diameter deep well sources adjacent to Building S-509 on the Main Post. Groundwater is pumped out of these wells, chlorinated and fluoridated prior to distribution. Both additives are required under Army Standards. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant and fluoride is used to promote strong teeth in children.

The Fort Shafter water system has three different service zones: the upper, the middle, and the lower. Each service zone is served by reservoir storage and booster pumps. The upper zone and the majority of the middle zone services family housing areas. Housing area 1600 is located within the lower zone, which consists mostly of non-housing demands.

The system is also interconnected with the City and County of Honolulu water system for emergency situations.

The susceptibility of the Fort Shafter Water System to contamination has been evaluated under the Hawaii Source Water Assessment Program. The results of the Assessment, dated March 2004, is available for review by contacting the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, at (808) 656-2878.

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

Where Potential Ground Water Quality Problems Come From?

As water percolates through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. Substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity can also be introduced to ground water or through the distribution system. 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.

Substances that may be mixed with ground water or may be introduced through the distribution system are:

Microbial organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage spills and wildlife. Indicator organisms include total and fecal coliforms and not pathogens.

Inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals, are naturally-occurring or could result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, could be byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum distribution, and can also come from gas stations, and urban stormwater runoff.

Radionuclides are naturally occurring or could be the result of oil and gas production.

Further information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) and

DPW Environmental Division

947 Wright Avenue, Wheeler Army Airfield
United States Army Garrison, Hawaii (APVG-GWV)
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5013
(808) 656-2878

Preventive Medicine

Tripler Army Medical Center
1 Jarrett White Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96859-5000
(808) 433-6693

Table Definitions:

MCL

Maximum Contaminant Level ~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 treatment technology.

MCLG

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal ~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.

Table Abbreviations:

ppb parts per billion or micrograms per liter
ppm parts per million or milligrams per liter
nd not detected
na not applicable

Table Notes:

1. Fluoride is added to the water system to help promote healthy teeth in children.
2. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Town Hall Meetings:

Please contact your local Mayor if you would like to include an informational briefing of your Consumer Confidence Report at an upcoming Town Hall Meeting.

Water Quality Table for Fort Shafter

Data presented in this table includes the results of samples taken between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003. Samples were collected and analyzed for 170 different chemicals. All test results were less than MCLs. Results of samples in the table below identify low levels of contaminants detected below EPA limits. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	Likely Source of Contaminant	Violation
Organic						
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	1	0	0.27	No Range	Discharge from wood preserving factories	NO
Inorganic						
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.010	No Range	Discharge of drilling water; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Fluoride ¹ (ppm)	4	4	0.74	0.52 - 0.85	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	0.41	0.36 - 0.442	Runoff from fertilizer use	NO
Radionuclides						
Gross Beta Activity (pCi/l) - 2000	5	0	2.5	No Range	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Unregulated²						
Sodium (ppm) - 2002	na	na	62	56 - 68	Naturally-occurring	NO
Sulfate (ppm)	na	na	26	21 - 31	Naturally-occurring	NO

Violations:

A violation occurs when the Level Detected exceeds the MCL. **No violations occurred in 2003 at Fort Shafter.**

Note:

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, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).