DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20305-1000

June 14, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(FLEET READINESS AND LOGISTICS) (N4)
DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
(INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS)

SUBJECT: Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs) Drinking Water System Testing Requirement

Ref: (a) DASN (E) Policy Memo, 21 Oct 2014
(b) ASD (EI&E) Policy Memo, 10 Jun 2016

The Department of the Navy (DON) is committed to ensuring all men, women, and children who live or work on DON installations receive safe drinking water. Reference (a) set forth PFC sampling requirements for potential at-risk drinking water systems in the U.S. and overseas. Reference (b) sets forth PFC sampling requirements for additional DON drinking water systems.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined value of two PFCs (perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)) on 19 May 2016. This level is significantly lower than the 2009 provisional health advisory. Based on discussions with your staffs, there remain approximately 66 Navy and 19 Marine Corps public and non-public water systems in the U.S. not sampled under reference (a).

This policy directs the following actions be taken:

- Sample finished drinking water for PFCs on all installations by 15 November 2016, where sampling was not already completed under reference (a) or where drinking water is purchased from a public water system which has not already completed PFC sampling.
- If there are exceedances of the EPA lifetime health advisory levels, immediately notify the affected installation personnel and provide an alternative source of safe drinking water. Provide additional notifications to DON leadership through the chain of command.

- Drinking water systems with detections above the Method Reporting Limit, but at or below the lifetime health advisory level, shall determine appropriate follow-up actions, in coordination with the chain of command, which may include additional sampling to ensure levels in drinking water remain below the lifetime health advisory level.

- Report all drinking water testing results and corrective actions, if needed, required by this memorandum to my office by 31 December 2016.

- Installations not able to meet any of these deadlines must request a waiver from my office through their chain of command.

My point of contact is Mr. Richard Mach at richard.mach@navy.mil or (703) 614-5463.

Karnig Ohannessian
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Environment)