



## **Bradley Air National Guard Base PFOS/PFOA Information**

PFOS and PFOA are part of a class of man-made chemicals Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) used in many industrial and consumer products including clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They were also contained in foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial processes because it rapidly extinguishes the fire, saving lives and protecting property. In 1970, the Air Force began using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which contains Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), to extinguish petroleum fires.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), most people in the United States have been exposed to PFOS and PFOA in everyday living. The EPA began studies into long-term health effects from exposure to these chemicals, and in 2009, the EPA issued a provisional short-term health advisory for the chemicals. This advisory was followed by a drinking water health advisory in 2016.

Recognizing the severity of the potential issue, the Air Force began site interviews at all bases in 2016 in order to align resources and timing of further study based on the severity of the release. A site interview was conducted at Bradley Air National Guard Base January 2016. The National Guard Bureau consultant who conducted the site interview found that PFC use at Bradley Air National Guard Base was limited to minimal operational testing procedures compared to other bases where operational use was more prevalent. The consultant recommended five locations for testing to confirm this limited release. These sites were inspected in 2017, and ground water and soil testing completed at 21 locations, 15 borings, and six temporary wells.

In 2018, the National Guard Bureau issued a Draft Site Inspection Report of the five recommended locations for testing. This report was shared with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The results of this report cleared all five sites for soil contamination as no exceedances for PFC were shown in soils. Three of the sites were thus recommended for No Further Action (NFA), in addition to the base boundary well (used to determine if PFC had migrated off site).

Two of the sites, the Fire Station and Storm Drainage Basin, were recommended for further study due to EPA drinking water limit exceedance at these locations. Both soil and groundwater will be tested during the investigation to determine the nature and extent of the confirmed PFC release. Bradley Air National Guard Base is anticipated to have further testing completed in these two locations in the 2020 - 2021 timeframe, subsequent to other Air Force bases that have increased reasons for concern.

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For further information on the Department of Defense (DoD) response to PFCs, please visit [www.defense.gov/pfa](http://www.defense.gov/pfa)