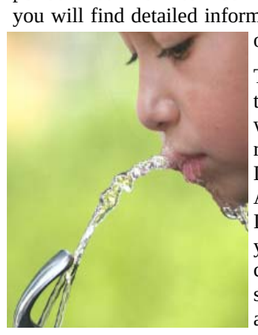
Water Quality Report 2014

Robins Air Force Base Water System Permit No. 1530042

Robins AFB Drinking Water Program

This Water Quality Report summarizes the quality of your drinking water during calendar year 2014. Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB) met all safety and quality standards set by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the period of Jan 2014 to Dec 2014. Incorporated in this report you will find detailed information about these standards and our efforts to meet them.



This report also provides detailed accounts of the detected water monitoring and testing results gathered from January to December 2014 for the Robins AFB Public Water System. Included are details about where your water originates, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The purpose of this report is to advise consumers about drinking water quality and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. The report reflects the hard work and dedication of the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, who operates and maintains the water distribution and treatment systems; the 78th Medical Group, who tests the drinking water for safety and quality; and the Environmental Management Branch, who oversees the program and ensures compliance with our Georgia withdrawal and operation permits.

To comply with the Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the 78th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight issues this annual report on drinking water monitoring results. For additional information about this report or to provide input regarding the Robins AFB public water system, contact the Robins AFB Public Affairs Office at 926-2137. The base organizations that manage the water system have an open door policy with our residents.

Our Raw Water Source

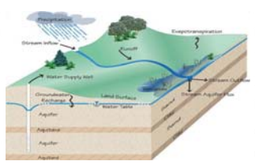
Our drinking water is drawn from the Blufftown Aquifer, one of the best groundwater sources in the State. This is a safe and reliable source that provides high-quality water that is free of micro-organisms, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium that are sometimes found in rivers and lakes.

Rain water percolates down into the Blufftown Aquifer through layers of soil and sand, which act as natural cleansing filters to remove impurities. At Robins AFB, the drinking water aquifer is located over 300 feet below the ground surface and is separated from surface water by several thick clay layers. Robins AFB is permitted to withdraw water through the seven water supply wells located throughout the base, one of these is inactive. Public water systems are required to develop a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) to identify potential sources of contamination and review the controls to mitigate any potential impact. Management strategies to control current and future potential contamination sources have been identified and implemented at Robins AFB. These controls are designated as adequate for the protection of our drinking water supply. Contact Public Affairs at 926-2137 if you have questions regarding the SWAP.

Reduced Monitoring Approved

The Source Water Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment show the Robins AFB water system's raw water is not in a high potential pollution risk status. As authorized by the EPD, our system has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year and have been tested over a long period of time showing no levels of concern. The reduced monitoring requirements, called waivers, have been issued to our drinking water system for the following inorganic compounds: arsenic, asbestos and cyanide, effective 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. Additionally, our water system has a waiver for 31 synthetic organic compounds, effective 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. Please contact the Robins AFB Public Affairs Office at 926-2137 if you have questions about drinking water waivers or wish to receive a copy.

Our Treatment System



A variety of techniques are used to treat your tap water, including disinfection by chlorination as well as fluoridation to protect children's teeth. The water also goes through a softening process by adding a corrosion inhibitor and soda ash. The water treatment operation is staffed daily by highly trained, state licensed water treatment plant operators. Our water system has storage capacity of over 2 million gallons, a pumping capacity of 10.4 million gallons per day and uses advanced technology to monitor and control drinking water distribution 24 hours/day. During 2014, nearly 511 million gallons of water was distributed to Robins AFB consumers. Our operations staff work diligently 365 days per year to ensure our water is safe, available, and is meeting standards set by State and Federal agencies.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 / CDC (Environmental Protection Agency / Centers 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 at 800-426-4791.

If you have questions concerning this report, or any other aspects of Robins AFB facilities or operations, please contact TSgt Marty Shorter, 78 MDG/SGPB at 327-7555.

Complaints regarding color, taste, or odor? Please call The Civil Engineer Service Desk at 926 - 5657

Notes About Contaminants

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, naturally occurring radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in any source water BEFORE it is treated include:

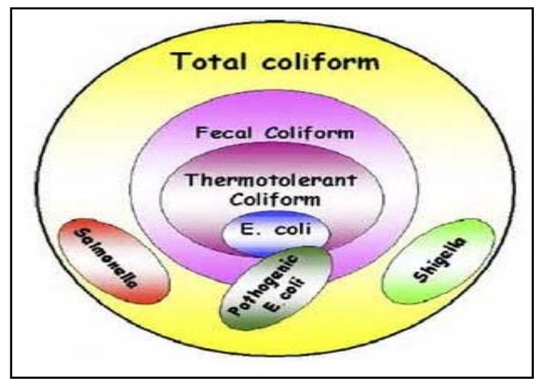
- Microorganisms, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and wildlife.
- Inorganic chemicals, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring, or result from storm water runoff or industrial sources.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, or residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, originating typically from industrial operations and storm water runoff.
- Radionuclides, which can naturally occur, or are the result of mining activities.

Most surface water contaminants never reach the drinking water supply. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Additional Information About Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Robins AFB is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead, or through the 78th Medical Group.

Additional Information About Total Coliforms



Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Fecal coliform and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that water may be contaminated by human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

In addition to the required monthly total coliforms sampling, the Bioenvironmental Flight conducts in-house total coliform monitoring at 15 locations, analyzing over 300 samples per year to ensure the water is safe.

Table Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm: parts per million

ppb: parts per billion

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

N/A: not applicable

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminant	Max Allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	RAFB Water System Highest Detected	Range of Detection	Year Sampled	Violation Y/N	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform(number of positive sample results)	1[a]	0	0[a]	0	2014	**N**	Naturally present
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.02[b]	0.82-1.41	2014	N	Natural/Additive
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.71	0-0.71	2014	N	Erosion/Runoff from fertilizer use
Copper, at tap(ppb)	AL=1300	AL=1300	170[c]	0-170	2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of plumbing systems
Lead, at tap(ppb)	AL = 15	0	0[c]	0-0	2013	N	
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	8.0-12.0[d]	N/A	9.65	9.34-9.64	2014	N	By-product of disinfection
Chlorine(ppm)	4	4	1.39[b]	0.90-1.5	2014	N	Water additive

a. The MCL for total coliform bacteria is based on the presence or absence of total coliforms in a sample.
b. Reported the annual average of monthly fluoride/chlorine results.
c. These samples represent the 90th percentile for the Robins Air Force Base water system.
d. The QC Range for Total Trihalomethances.