Robins AFB Drinking Water Program

This Water Quality Report summarizes the quality of your drinking water during calendar year 2017. Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB) met all parameters set by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 2017.

This report also provides detailed accounts of the detected water monitoring and testing results gathered from January to December 2017 for the Robins AFB Public Water System. Details about where your water originates, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies is included.

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 operate and maintain the water distribution and treatment systems and the 78th Medical Group, who tests the drinking water supply.

To comply with the Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the 78th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight issues this report on drinking water monitoring results annually. For additional information about this report or to provide input regarding the Robins AFB public water system, contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at 478-327-7555. These organizations 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 many groundwater sources in the State. This is a safe and reliable source that provides high-quality water that is free of microorganisms, 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 six water supply wells located throughout the base.

Public water systems are required to develop a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) to identify and control contamination sources and review the controls to mitigate potential impacts. Management strategies to control current and future potential contamination sources have been identified and implemented. These controls are designated as adequate to protect our drinking water supply. Contact Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at 478-327-7555 if you have questions regarding the SWAP.

Reduced Monitoring

The Source Water Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment show the Robins AFB water system’s raw water is not at a high potential pollution risk status. GA EPD has authorized reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants in our system to less than once per year because their concentrations have been very stable over many years and the history of testing has shown no levels of concern. Reduced monitoring requirements, called waivers, have been issued to our drinking water system for arsenic, asbestos, cyanide, lead and copper, as well as 31 synthetic organic compounds, effective January 2014 to 31 December 2018. Please contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at 478-327-7555 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 chlorination disinfection 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 by highly trained, state-licensed water treatment plant operators. Our water intake was located 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 per day. During 2017, nearly 580 million gallons of water was distributed to the Robins AFB consumers. Our operations staff work diligently 365 days per year to ensure our water is safe, available and is meeting strict standards set by State and Federal agencies.

Who needs to take special precautions?

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 1-800-426-4791.

Improved Source Water Protection

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Robins Drinking Water Is Safe!
In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. 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. 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. MRDLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. 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 contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural live-stock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring, or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, or residential uses.
- **Organic chemicals contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which may be naturally occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking 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. Drinking water, including bottle 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 1-800-426-4791.

### Table Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Average (Results)</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Year sampled</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Typical Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>MCL=4</td>
<td>MCLG=4</td>
<td>1.30°</td>
<td>0.01-2.6</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Water additive used to control microbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.95°</td>
<td>0.7-1.1</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate/Nitrite</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>ND-0.71</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>Al=1300</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>240°</td>
<td>0-240</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>Al=15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.4°</td>
<td>0-1.4</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetrachloroethylene</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>ND-0.67</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>ND-1</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.6015</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1°</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Radium</td>
<td>pCi/L</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>1.66-4.42</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes About Contaminants**

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### Required Consumer Confidence Report Statement Addressing Lead in Drinking Water

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 how to test drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.