



2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

MORON AIR BASE, SPAIN

Introduction

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report – CCR) as required by the Final Governing Standards for Spain (FGS-S) and Air Force Instruction 48-144, Drinking Water Surveillance Program. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe, quality and reliable drinking water supply. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are the best allies.

Water Sources

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, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Morón AB receives its water supply from a shallow regional aquifer. Ground water that is not under the influence of superficial waters is the primary source of the water system. Six well fields pump water through a water treatment plant to a comprehensive distribution system. The water is treated using reverse osmosis and granular activated carbon to remove contaminants prior to disinfection with chlorine. The water system supplies water to all facilities including the Youth Center, Military Family Housing, DoDEA School, dorms, dining facilities, clinic and most Spanish Air Force facilities.

Drinking Water and Your Health

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information on contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) at DSN 479-2220 (0049-6371-46-2220). According to the Environmental Protection Agency, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants are at a higher risk of waterborne illness. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

A Final Word on Water Quality

Your water quality team at Morón AB works around the clock to provide safe, dependable water at every tap. But they can only ensure the success of today's mission if everyone contributes. Tomorrow's success will depend on all of us, working together, to protect our vital water resources. Remember, the water we use does not quickly return to the aquifer, but is, for the most part, "consumed" by our actions. The military installation (Morón AB) and many nearby villages draw water from the same aquifer. Conservation is therefore essential to protect our water supply. You should also consider ways you can reduce your water consumption, i.e., don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, take a shower vs. a bath. There are numerous ways to save our most valuable natural resource for us and the future of our children. If you have ideas to reduce usage and contamination of this valuable resource submit it to the Ramstein AB Drinking Water Quality Working Group. These efforts will help protect the future water supply by reducing the overall consumptive use.

Customer Views Welcome

We are available to address any questions or concerns you may have. Housing residents should contact the Housing Office with any water concerns. Dorm residents should contact their building manager.

For more information on this report or base drinking water quality, please call BE at DSN 479-2220 (0049-6371-462220) or the 86 CES Environmental Management Flight at DSN 480-7712.

Definitions and Abbreviations

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

Average: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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

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 contamination.

ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

About the Following Pages

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although more than **80 contaminants** were tested, only those substances listed below were detected in our water. The FGS-S requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination.

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive(s)	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
0	1 positive monthly sample	0	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	90 th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.014 – 0.26	0.14	0	mg/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	0	0.01	<0.00020 – 0.032	0.01	4	mg/L	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Required Additional Health Information for 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. Morón AB 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>.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectant Residual	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
Chlorine (Free)	1	0.2	1.8	4.0	<4.0	mg/L	Water additive used to control microbes.

Inorganic Contaminants	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	0.009	Sampled once	2	2	mg/L	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Bromate	<0.0025	All the same	0	0.01	mg/L	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	6.8	Sampled once	10	10	mg/L	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Violations

Bromate			
<p>A life time of drinking bromate at these levels has an increased lifetime cancer risk of 2 in 10,000 – if consumed every day over the life time. Some people who ingested large amounts of bromate had gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Some individuals who ingested very high concentrations of bromate also experienced kidney effects, and nervous system effects and hearing loss. However, these people were exposed to bromate levels thousands of times the amount the amount in the FGS-S.</p>			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL	10 October 2019	TBD	<p>BE performed sampling of the Morón Air Base drinking water system for Bromates on 10 October 2019. Bromate levels from this monitoring event were found to be in exceedance of the 0.01 mg/L (equivalent to ppm) of the MCL. Bromate is a byproduct of the water treatment disinfection process and we believe the exceedance of Bromate is due to the high level of free available chlorine (FAC) in the water system for CY2019.</p> <p>While not over the MCL of 4 mg/L, the levels of FAC were greater than the recommended limits of 0.2-0.6 mg/L. Working with Morón Air Base CE Environmental personnel, we have reduced the level of FAC to the recommended level for the installation. Also, we have put a process in place to verify the FAC to be in the recommended limits before collecting the water samples to analyze for Bromate.</p> <p>In an effort to provide statistical data and/or provide a data trend, the BE office will continue to sample for Bromate on a quarterly basis. This also serves as a precautionary measure to detect any changes in Bromate levels more expediently. This is not driven by regulatory requirement.</p> <p>Violation ends when four consecutive quarterly samples have a resulting running average below the MCL.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, BE was only able to take one sample in 2020 and did not meet the four quarterly sample requirement to remove violation from 2019.</p>

Lead

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Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL	9 September 2020	TBD	<p>BE performed sampling of the Morón Air Base drinking water system for Lead on 9 September 2020. Lead levels from this monitoring event were found to be in exceedance of the 0.01 mg/L (equivalent to ppm) of the MCL. Lead is a byproduct of corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.</p> <p>Due to the exceedance, BE will collect additional water samples every six months. Violations will end with two consecutive six month monitoring periods with no exceedances.</p> <p>Both sites that exceeded the MCL in September 2020 were resampled and the results were below action level.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, increased sampling for Lead was not accomplished.</p>