



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER US NAVAL FORCES JAPAN
COMMANDER NAVY REGION JAPAN
PSC 473 BOX 12
FPO AP 96349-0001

5720
N00J/0139
October 30, 2024

Mr. Masahiko Goto
3F Shimizu Building
1-26 Otakicho
Yokosuka, Kanagawa-ken
238-0008

Subj: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear Mr. Goto:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (DON-NAVY-2022-012757) dated September 9, 2022, in which you seek records concerning an incident where PFOS and PFOA were detected in water from a sewage disposal facility at Yokosuka Naval Base in May 2022. Your request was received by our office on March 5, 2024, and assigned file number CNRJ 24-009. Review of these documents reveals they are partially exempt from disclosure for the following reasons:

Exemption 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(3)(A): Exempts disclosure of personally identifying information of military and civilian personnel assigned to units that are sensitive, routinely deployable, or stationed in foreign territories.

Exemption 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5): Exempts disclosure of inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.

Exemption 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6): Exempts information about individuals in personnel, medical, and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy..

Because your request has been denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination, in writing, to the Judge Advocate General, 1322 Patterson Avenue, SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., 20374-5066. For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at christopher.a.julka@navy.mil or (703) 697-0031.

Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter to be considered. A statement as to why your appeal ought to be granted should be included, and the enclosed copy of this letter must be attached. Both the appeal letter and the envelope should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to Ms. Jennifer Calliste, Regional FOIA Coordinator, at jennifer.l.calliste.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

J. T. FLYNN

Enclosures: 1. Goto_Docs_Redacted



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA
PSC 473 BOX 1
FPO AP 96349

5830
Ser N00J/165
30 Mar 23

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) ltr of 3 Mar 23

From: Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka
To: Commander, Navy Region Japan

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO PRESENCE OF PFAS IN WASTE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT ONBOARD FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA

1. Forwarded, concurring with the Investigating Officer's findings of facts, opinions, and recommendations in this case.

排付

2. Per reference (a), I have reviewed the investigation into the presence of perfluoroalkyl and/or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the effluent of the Fleet Activities Yokosuka Waste Water Treatment Plants. The investigation examined the eleven aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) systems present at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) facilities. All systems were found to be current in their maintenance and in a state of good repair; and there were no recorded leaks, discharges, or spills from any CFAY AFFF system during the relevant time period. Accordingly, I concur with the Investigating Officer that the elevated levels of PFAS which prompted this investigation, were not the result of any spill or acute event attributable to any CFAY AFFF system.

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3. As a result of this investigation, on November 1, 2022, I installed twelve granular activated carbon (GAC) filters at the effluent to the Waste Water Treatment Plants. Since the installation of these filters, post-GAC testing has consistently resulted in PFAS levels well-below the thresholds established in U.S. Forces Japan's Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) of April 2022 -- indicating that the GAC filters are effective.

4. My point of contact for this matter is (b) (3) (A), (b) (6). He may be reached at DSN: 315-243-8913 or via email at (b) (3) (A), (b) (6)

(b) (3) (A), (b) (6)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES, JAPAN
COMMANDER, NAVY REGION JAPAN
PSC 473 BOX 12
FPO AP 96349-0001

5830
Ser N00J/0850
14 Mar 24

FINAL ENDORSEMENT on (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), ltr of 3 Mar 23

From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces/Navy Region Japan
To: File

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO PRESENCE OF PFAS IN WASTE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT ONBOARD FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA

Ref: (a) JAGMAN Chapter II

1. I concur with and approve all findings, opinions, and recommendations of the subject investigation.
2. I am ordering CFAY to take recommendations 1 – 6 for action and report back to me that the recommendations have been completed, or request an extension, no later than 3 Oct 23.
3. By this memo, this investigation is complete. This memorandum will remain with the investigation for the required period, after which this memorandum and the investigation documents will be disposed of per the applicable regulations.
4. My staff will coordinate with United States Forces Japan and the Office of the Secretary of Defense prior to any release of this investigation under the Freedom of Information Act. My point of contact for this coordination is (b) (3) (A), (b) (6). He may be reached at DSN 315-243-6390 or (b) (3) (A), (b) (6).
(b) (3) (A), (b) (6)

Copy to:
CNIC
NAFA
CFAY
CFAS
CFAO
NAFM
SAC
DGAR

5830
3 Mar 23

From: (b) (3) (A), (b) (6)
To: Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO PRESENCE OF PFAS IN WASTE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT ONBOARD FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA

Ref: (a) JAGINST 5800.7G

- Encl: (1) Your ltr 5800 Ser N00J/379 of 8 Jul 22
(2) Your ltr 5800 Ser N00J/380 of 8 Jul 22
(3) DoD Report to Congress on PFAS on Military Installations of Apr 20
(4) EPA 800-F-16-003 Fact Sheet of Nov 16
(5) EPA article "PFAS-Explained" of 28 Apr 22
(6) Ministry of the Environment Japan publication of Apr 13
(7) USFJ, DoD, "Japan Environmental Governing Standards" (JEGS) of Apr 22
(8) CNO WASHINGTON DC 131854Z Oct 21 (NAVADMIN 227/21)
(9) (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) tr of 6 Jul 22
(10) Interview of (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) of 21 Nov 22
(11) Interview of (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) of 28 Nov 22
(12) Interview of (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) of 21 Nov 22
(13) Interview of (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) of 21 Nov 22
(14) Interview of (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) of 28 Nov 22
(15) (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) memo of 30 Jul 22
(16) CFAY e-mail ltr to CNFJ of 28 Jun 22
(17) CFAY WWTP Sampling Locations & Results Schematic

Preliminary Statement

1. Pursuant to enclosures (1) and (2) and in accordance with reference (a), a command investigation was conducted to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the presence of Perfluoroalkyl and/or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) onboard Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) between February 2022 and 22 July 2022. All persons questioned cooperated fully. No requests for extension were submitted.

2. Wastewater discharges into Japan waters from CFAY Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) exceeded PFAS-reporting threshold of 50 ng/L imposed by the Department of Defense's (DoD) Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) in May 2022. This investigation revealed no reports or evidence of spills or other acute events onboard CFAY from February 2022 through 22 July 2022 that would result in the presence of PFAS in the WWTP. Additionally, this investigation revealed that the source of PFAS in the WWTP cannot be traced to the land-based Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) systems onboard CFAY.

3. The following personnel were contacted:

- a. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) Deputy Fire Chief, CFAY
- b. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) Navy Exchange (NEX) Car Care Center Manager, CFAY
- c. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) Backflow Prevention Program Manager, CFAY
- d. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) FSCM / FMFS Division Head, CFAY
- e. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) Compliance Branch Chief, Public Works Department Environmental, CFAY
- f. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) Public Works Officer, CFAY

4. All provisions and requirements of the Privacy Act were met. No social security numbers were solicited or obtained from individuals.

Findings of Fact

- 1. Perfluorooctane sulfonate acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are two specific types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are generically called PFAS. [Encl (3)]
- 2. Historically, U.S. Federal regulation of PFAS has been largely limited to issuing health advisories and requiring notice to the EPA of use of PFAS. [Encl (4)]
- 3. There are thousands of PFAS chemical, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. [Encl (5)]
- 4. These chemicals were historically popular due to their resistance to heat, stains, water, and grease and can be found in several household items to include clothing, carpets and cookware. [Encl (5)]
- 5. On 1 April 2010, the Government of Japan (GOJ) designated PFOS as a Class I Specified Chemical Substance with specific allowable treatment and disposal methods under the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture. [Encl (6)]
- 6. (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- 7. JEGS 2022 requires spills of PFAS combined concentration of 50 ng/L to be reported as a spill. [Encl (7)]

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8. Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) contains PFAS and is in use by the U.S. Navy for extinguishing petroleum-based fires. [Encl (3)]

9. To prevent releases to the environment, the Department of Defense, to include its U.S. Navy ships in port, uses AFFF only to respond to emergency events and no longer uses it for land-based testing and training. [Encls (3), (8)]

10. The CFAY PWD manages AFFF systems installed (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)
(b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

a. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

b. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

b. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

c. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

d. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

e. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

f. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

g. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

h. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

i. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

j. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)

11. All of the facility systems are under a service contract for recurring inspections and maintenance. [Encl (8)]

12. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5) [Encl (9)]

13. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5) [Encl (9)]

14. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) is currently the Navy Exchange Car Care Center Manager and was the manager from February 2022 through 22 July 2022. [Encl (12)]

15. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5)
(b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5) [Encl (12)]

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16. Approximately 7 feet from the AFFF tank is an access cover to the drain system of the WWTP. [Encl (12)]
17. According to (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) in March 2022, Japanese Contracting Company, C1, was conducting maintenance on the AFFF tank and ruptured the bladder contained within. [Encl (12)].
18. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) was not aware of any AFFF solution being exposed to the environment or to the WWTP drain system as a result of the ruptured bladder. [Encl (12)]
19. The AFFF system at the Car Care Center has not been used recently for any purpose. [Encl (12)]
20. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) is the Deputy Fire Chief onboard CFAY. [Encl (10)]
21. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) confirmed that AFFF is stored and maintained (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5) onboard CFAY (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (b) (5) [Encl (10)]
22. Fire engines have the capacity to carry AFFF solution; however, it is not stored onboard any engines or mobile equipment onboard CFAY. [Encl (10)]
23. AFFF has never been used by the fire department in a real world application or for training at any location onboard CFAY. [Encl (10)]
24. The AFFF stored at the Fire Station (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) has never been exposed to the environment and the storage facility is in good repair. [Encl (10)]
25. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) is the Backflow Prevention Program Manager, CFAY Public Works Department (PWD), Production Division (PRY3). [Encl (13)]
26. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) understands his role within PWD to consist of protecting the drinking water on base. [Encl (13)]
27. A cross connection between the WWTP and Potable Water (PW) system exists on base and includes two in-line check valves and a relief valve. [Encl (13)]
28. In (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) opinion, this cross connection system makes it virtually impossible for PFOS/PFOA to enter the WWTP via the potable water system. [Encl (13)]
29. No leaks or discharges have been reported or found during recurring inspections and maintenance of the (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) land-based AFFF systems at CFAY. [Encls (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16)]
30. On 25 March 2022, Facility Support Contractor (FSC) observed excessive "bubbles" that were hard to break down resulting in overflow from the Plant A Nitrification Tank. [Encl (15)]

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31. Subsequent significant excessive bubbling events occurred on the following dates:
 - a. 25, 28, and 30 March 2022
 - b. 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 April 2022
 - c. 12 May 2022 [Encl (15)]
32. On 13 April 2022, FSC collected samples of overflowing nitrification tank foam and wastewater fluid from various points within WWTP Plant A. [Encl (15)]
33. The PWD was unaware of FSC's sampling event. [Encls (15), (16)]
34. On 2 May 2022, the sampling results were received by FSC indicating a combined concentration of PFOS and PFOA exceeding 50 ng/L from points within plant A. [Encl (16)]
35. On 5 May, PWD was notified of FSC sampling indicating a concentration of PFAS exceeding 50 ng/L from points within Plant A. [Encl (16)]
36. PWD did not concur with FSC's sampling points and results based on failure to use government approved sampling methods at appropriate locations. [Encl (16)]
37. PWD directed resampling by EPA-approved methods at influent and effluent to Plants A and C in accordance with approved government methods and sampling points. [Encl (16)]
38. PWD tested influent and effluent PFAS levels on 9 May and 6 July 2022 at the CFAY Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). [Encls (15), (16), (17)]
39. Preliminary results from the 9 May testing were received on 27 June 2022 and final results were received on 29 June 2022. [Encl (15)]
40. PFAS sampling results for 9 May 2022 returned as follows:
 - a. Plant A Inlet Sample Results: 19 ng/L for PFOS and non-detect for PFOA.
 - b. Plant A Effluent Sample Results: 100 ng/L for PFOS and 12 ng/L for PFOA.
 - c. Plant C Inlet Sample Results: non-detect for PFOS and PFOA.
 - d. Plant C Effluent Sample Results: 30 ng/L for PFOS and 27 ng/L for PFOA. [Encls (16), (17)]
41. The 9 May 2022 sampling indicated exceedances of 50 ng/L at the two effluent points but not at the influent into the plants. [Encls (16), (17)]
42. PFAS sampling results for 6 July 2022 returned as follows:
 - a. Plant A Inlet Sample Results: 15 ng/L for PFOS and non-detect for PFOA.
 - b. Plant A Effluent Sample Results: 97 ng/L for PFOS and 15 ng/L for PFOA.
 - c. Plant C Inlet Sample Results: 17 ng/L for PFOS and non-detect for PFOA.

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d. Plant C Effluent Sample Results: 48 ng/L for PFOS and 35 ng/L for PFOA. [Encl (17)]

Opinions

1. The presence of PFAS in the WWTP from February 2022 through 22 July 2022 was not caused by any acute incidents onboard CFAY. [FFs (1)-(42)]
2. The source of PFAS in the WWTP cannot be traced to the land-based Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) systems onboard CFAY. [FFs (1)-(42)]
3. There are four competing theories for potential sources of PFAS in the WWTP:
 - a. A spill resulting from a test or emergency;
 - b. A spill resulting from plant and lift station inspections;
 - c. Oversight of a land based system; and
 - d. Accumulation of low levels of PFAS found in household goods. [FFs (1)-(42)]
4. No spills resulting from tests or emergencies on the water front occurred during the period of February 2022 through 22 July 2022. [FFs (1)-(42)]
5. Plant and lift inspections are a routine process. There is potential for a spill to occur during these inspections; however, no spills in connection with plants and lift inspections occurred between February 2022 through 22 July 2022. [FFs (1)-(42)]
6. It is highly unlikely that the rupturing of the AFFF tank bladder adjacent to the Car Care Center that occurred in March of 2022 is the source of excessive level of PFAS obtained on 9 May 2022. [FFs (13)-(20), (29)-(31)]
7. There is no indication that any AFFF was leaked into the environment as a result of the bladder rupture. [FFs (13)-(20), (29)-(31)]
8. Even if AFFF had leaked from the bladder rupture, there are no indications that any AFFF solution drained into drain system of the WWTP. In order for this to occur, the solution would have to travel over 7 feet to the drain system and bypass the access cover that would prevent the solution from seeping through. [FFs (13)-(20), (29)-(31)]
9. Lastly, the bladder rupture is too attenuated from the samples collected on 9 May 2022 to likely be the source. The samples were collected over a month after the bladder rupture incident. [FFs (13)-(20), (29)-(31)]
10. The samples collected by FSC on 13 April 2022 are not reliable because they were conducted via non-government-approved methods and without permission of PWD. [FFs (23)-(28)]

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11. Given the historically abundant use of PFAS chemicals in household items around the world, an accumulation of low levels of PFAS in these items may be the source of the excessive levels. These items are not limited to on-base items given that several household items in Japan also contain low levels of PFAS. [FFs (1)-(4)]

Recommendations

1. Continue oversight of all land based AFFF systems.
2. Continue to pursue aggressive backflow and maintenance.
3. Continue community education of potential hazardous effects of PFAS.
4. Continue to monitor all lift stations to determine any change and possible source of contamination.
5. Evaluate facility regulations to determine if water-based systems can replace AFFF systems in parking garages.
6. Continue WWTP PFAS treatment by Government-furnished Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters and construction/service contractors.

(b) (3) (A), (b) (6)

Commanding Officer
Naval Air Facility Atsugi

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