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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# EPA Superfunds: Veterans at Risk

May 16, 2009 posted by [Robert O'Dowd](#)

**Veterans and dependents are at risk of exposure to contaminants from military bases listed on the EPA National Priority List (Superfund). Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) have not notified their memberships, even though the information on health effects is on an EPA website.**

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The Pentagon owns 130 Superfund sites, the most of any organization. Veterans and dependents were exposed to contaminants at these sites, including carcinogens like TCE, PCE, benzene and radiation.

The Defense Authorization Bill for 2008 required the Pentagon to notify Camp Lejeune veterans, but only after the death of children from TCE contaminated wells.

Except for Camp Lejeune, there's no legal requirement to notify veterans of the other 132 Superfund sites.

## **Camp Lejeune's Water Contamination**

Former Senator Elizabeth Dole was instrumental in requiring the Navy and Marine Corps to notify residents who may have been exposed to contaminated water at the Camp Lejeune.

An estimated one million people at Camp Lejeune may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.

“Senator Elizabeth Dole, along with four of her colleagues, today introduced legislation to help protect our most susceptible populations, such as pregnant women, infants and children, against the negative health impacts of drinking water contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical commonly used in degreasing agents, paint and spot removers and adhesives,” according to a press release of August 1, 2007.

The amendment introduced by Dole and signed into law in the 2007 Defense Authorization Act required the Secretary of the Navy to notify those who may have been affected by the contaminated wells starting in 1958.

## **Benzene and Missing Documents**

On May 13, 2009, the Camp Lejeune story took another twist when Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr of North Carolina requested a meeting with the Acting Secretary of the Navy the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment.

According the Senators Hagan and Burr, “new information [that] has surfaced regarding human exposure to volatile organic compounds in Camp Lejeune’s drinking water. This information calls into serious question the validity of the 1997 Public Health Assessment (PHA)...one of our constituents and his advocacy group found progress reports undertaken by a Department of the Navy (DON)-hired contractor in 1984 that showed high levels of benzene in an operating well...this finding was not previously made public not provided to ATSDR. We note that ATSDR omitted benzene from its 1997 PHA...this finding is one of the reasons ATSDR retracted the water contamination portion of its 1997 PHA...it has also come to our attention that the DON and the United States Marine Corps did not provide certain documents to ATSDR or the public until 2007.”

### **Other Military Sites**

It’s unlikely that Congress will require DOD to take special steps to notify veterans and their dependents of the contaminants and health effects at other military sites on the EPA Superfund list.

Public service announcements of the contaminants and the health effects would be a relatively inexpensive way to communicate to veterans. However, don’t bet on DOD undertaking this type of effort.

In fact, EPA has an internet website which shows all of the contaminants and health effects for all military bases and sites on the EPA National Priority List (Superfund).

### **Veteran Service Organizations**

Part of the mission of Veteran Service Organization (VSOs) is to keep their membership informed of issues important to them and their families. Nothing could be more important than you and your family’s ill.

The American Legion, the VFW, the Marine Corps League and other VSOs have the resources to notify their memberships of the contaminants and health effects of military base on the EPA Superfund list. There are no indications of an organized attempt by VSOs to spread the word to their membership. The result is that veterans and their dependents are on their own.

Imagine for a moment that you are one of the thousands of veterans who served at bases now on the EPA Superfund list. Unlike someone injured on the job, there is no workman compensation for a veteran to cover his or her medical expenses or even the possibility of filing a tort lawsuit for injuries. The Supreme Court’s FERES doctrine prevents any veteran from filing a tort suit, even when an injury occurs from government negligence.

VA disability compensation is available, if you “connect the dots” of illness to military service. Even when the “dots are connected,” the veteran will be required to obtain a nexus statement from a physician linking the medical condition to military service. The veteran’s physician may be hesitant to sign a nexus statement and unsure about the correct legal terminology to use.

Independent Medical Evaluations (IMEs) are available, but can be expensive. A telephone call to a California doctor showed that the cost of a VA nexus opinion started at \$3,000 and could go higher, depending upon the amount of documentation to review.

### **EPA’s Military Superfund Sites**

EPA has identified the Contaminants of Concern at each Superfund site. According to EPA, “The chemical substances (i.e., hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants) listed below were identified as contaminants of concern (COC) for the site. COCs are the chemical substances found at the site that the EPA has determined pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. These are the substances that are addressed by cleanup actions at the site.”

“Identifying COCs is a process where the EPA identifies people and ecological resources that could be exposed to contamination found at the site, determines the amount and type of contaminants present, and identifies the possible negative human health or ecological effects that could result from contact with the contaminants” according to the EPA website.

Military sites on the EPA Superfund list are shown below. Click on the base name to follow the link to EPA website. Once on the EPA site, the Contaminants of Concern (COCs) and their health effects can be found by clicking on “View Contaminants of Concern” at the bottom of the first page. The next screen will show each COC and a link to the Agency of Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR) where the health effects can be viewed.

### **US Air Force**

#### [Air Force Plant #4 \(General Dynamics\)](#)

Fort Worth  
TX

#### [Air Force Plant 85](#)

Columbus  
OH

#### [Air Force Plant PJKS](#)

Littleton  
CO

#### [American Lake Gardens/McChord AFB](#)

Tacoma  
WA

#### [Andersen Air Force Base](#)

Yigo  
GU

#### [Andrews Air Force Base](#)

Andrews Air Force Base  
MD

#### [Arnold Engineering Development Center \(USAF\)](#)

Tullahoma/Manchester  
TN

[Brandywine DRMO](#)

Bradyne  
MD

[Castle Air Force Base \(6 Areas\)](#)

Merced  
CA

[Chanute Air Force Base](#)

Rantoul  
IL

[Dover Air Force Base](#)

Dover  
DE

[Edwards Air Force Base](#)

Edwards AFB  
CA

[Eielson Air Force Base](#)

Fairbanks  
AK

[Ellsworth Air Force Base](#)

Ellsworth AFB  
SD

[Elmendorf Air Force Base](#)

Anchorage  
AK

[F.E. Warren Air Force Base](#)

Cheyenne  
WY

[Fairchild Air Force Base \(4 Waste Areas\)](#)

Spokane  
WA

[George Air Force Base](#)

Victorville  
CA

[Griffiss Air Force Base \(11 Areas\)](#)

Rome  
NY

[Hanscom Field/Hanscom Air Force Base](#)

Bedford  
MA

[Hill Air Force Base](#)

Hill AFB  
UT

[Homestead Air Force Base](#)

Homestead Air Force Base  
FL

[Loring Air Force Base](#)

Limestone  
ME

[Luke Air Force Base](#)

Glendale  
AZ

[March Air Force Base](#)

Riverside  
CA

[Mather Air Force Base \(AC&W Disposal Site\)](#)

Mather  
CA

[McChord Air Force Base \(Wash Rack/Treatment Area\)](#)

Tacoma  
WA

[McClellan Air Force Base \(Ground Water Contamination\)](#)

McClellan AFB  
CA

[McGuire Air Force Base #1](#)

Wrightstown  
NJ

[Mountain Home Air Force Base](#)

Mountain Home  
ID

[Norton Air Force Base \(Lndfl #2\)](#)

San Bernardino  
CA

[Pease Air Force Base](#)

Portsmouth/Newington  
NH

[Plattsburgh Air Force Base](#)

Plattsburgh  
NY

[Rickenbacker Air National Guard \(USAF\)](#)

Lockbourne  
OH

[Robins Air Force Base \(Landfill #4/Sludge Lagoon\)](#)

Houston County  
GA

[Tinker Air Force Base \(Soldier Creek/Building 3001\)](#)

Oklahoma City  
OK

[Travis Air Force Base](#)

Travis AFB  
CA

[Twin Cities Air Force Reserve Base \(Small Arms Range Landfill\)](#)

Minneapolis  
MN

[Tyndall Air Force Base](#)

Panama City  
FL

[Williams Air Force Base](#)

Chandler  
AZ

[Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#)

Dayton  
OH

[Wurtsmith Air Force Base](#)

Oscoda  
MI

**US Army**

[Aberdeen Proving Ground \(Edgewood Area\)](#)

Edgewood  
MD

[Aberdeen Proving Ground \(Michaelsville Landfill\)](#)

Aberdeen  
MD

[Alabama Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Childersburg  
AL

[Anniston Army Depot \(Southeast Industrial Area\)](#)

Anniston  
AL

[Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Hall County  
NE

[Fort Devens](#)

Fort Devens  
MA

[Fort Devens-Sudbury Training Annex](#)

Sudbury  
MA

[Fort Dix \(Landfill Site\)](#)

Pemberton Township  
NJ

[Fort Eustis \(US Army\)](#)

Newport News  
VA

[Fort George G. Meade](#)

Odenton  
MD

[Fort Lewis \(Landfill No. 5\)](#)

Tacoma  
WA

[Fort Lewis Logistics Center](#)

Tillicum  
WA



[Fort Ord](#)

Marina  
CA

[Fort Richardson \(USARMY\)](#)

Anchorage  
AK

[Fort Riley](#)

Junction City  
KS

[Fort Wainwright](#)

Fort Wainwright  
AK

[Iowa Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Middletown  
IA

[Joliet Army Ammunition Plant \(Load-Assembly-Packing Area\)](#)

Joliet  
IL

[Joliet Army Ammunition Plant \(Manufacturing Area\)](#)

Joliet  
IL

[Lake City Army Ammunition Plant \(Northwest Lagoon\)](#)

Independence  
MO

[Letterkenny Army Depot \(PDO Area\)](#)

Franklin County  
PA

[Letterkenny Army Depot \(SE Area\)](#)

Chambersburg  
PA

[Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Texarkana  
TX

[Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Karnack  
TX

[Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Doyline

LA

[Materials Technology Laboratory \(USARMY\)](#)

Watertown

MA

[Milan Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Milan

TN

[Natick Laboratory Army Research, Development, and Engineering Center](#)

Natick

MA

[New Brighton/Arden Hills/TCAAP \(USARMY\)](#)

New Brighton

MN

[Picatinny Arsenal \(USARMY\)](#)

Rockaway Township

NJ

[Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Riverbank

CA

[Rocky Mountain Arsenal \(USARMY\)](#)

Adams County

CO

[Sacramento Army Depot](#)

Sacramento

CA

[Savanna Army Depot Activity](#)

Savanna

IL

[Schofield Barracks \(USARMY\)](#)

Schofield

HI

[Seneca Army Depot](#)

Romulus

NY

[Sharpe Army Depot](#)

Lathrop  
CA

[Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant](#)

Desoto  
KS

[Tobyhanna Army Depot](#)

Tobyhanna  
PA

[Tooele Army Depot \(North Area\)](#)

Tooele  
UT

[Tracy Defense Depot \(USARMY\)](#)

Tracy  
CA

[Umatilla Army Depot \(Lagoons\)](#)

Hermiston  
OR

[US Army/NASA Redstone Arsenal](#)

Huntsville  
AL

[Weldon Spring Former Army Ordnance Works](#)

St. Charles County  
MO

[West Virginia Ordnance \(USARMY\)](#)

Point Pleasant  
WV

**US Coast Guard**

[Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard](#)

Baltimore  
MD

**US Navy**

[Adak Naval Air Station](#)

Adak  
AK

[Alameda Naval Air Station](#)

Alameda  
CA

[Allegany Ballistics Laboratory \(USNAVY\)](#)

Mineral County  
WV

[Bangor Naval Submarine Base](#)

Silverdale  
WA

[Bangor Ordnance Disposal \(USNAVY\)](#)

Bremerton  
WA

[Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base](#)

Barstow  
CA

[Brunswick Naval Air Station](#)

Brunswick  
ME

[Camp Lejeune Military Res. \(USNAVY\)](#)

Onslow County  
NC

[Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base](#)

Camp Pendleton  
CA

[Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station](#)

Havelock  
NC

[Concord Naval Weapons Station](#)

Concord  
CA

[Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center](#)

North Kingstown  
RI

[El Toro Marine Corps Air Station](#)

El Toro  
CA

[Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center](#)

Indian Head  
MD

[Jackson Park Housing Complex \(USNAVY\)](#)

Kitsap County  
WA

[Jacksonville Naval Air Station](#)

Jacksonville  
FL

[Marine Corps Combat Development Command](#)

Quantico  
VA

[Marine Corps Logistics Base](#)

Albany  
GA

[Moffett Naval Air Station](#)

Moffett Field  
CA

[Naval Air Development Center \(8 Waste Areas\)](#)

Warminster Township  
PA

[Naval Air Engineering Center](#)

Lakehurst  
NJ

[Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island \(Ault Field\)](#)

Whidbey Island  
WA

[Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island \(Seaplane Base\)](#)

Whidbey Island  
WA

[Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek](#)

Virginia Beach  
VA

[Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Eastern Pacific](#)

Wahiawa

HI

[Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant](#)

Fridley

MN

[Naval Security Group Activity](#)

Sabana Seca

PR

[Naval Surface Warfare Center – Dahlgren](#)

Dahlgren

VA

[Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station \(4 Waste Areas\)](#)

Keyport

WA

[Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant](#)

Bedford

MA

[Naval Weapons Station – Yorktown](#)

Yorktown

VA

[Naval Weapons Station Earle \(Site A\)](#)

Colts Neck

NJ

[Navy Ships Parts Control Center](#)

Mechanicsburg

PA

[New London Submarine Base](#)

New London

CT

[Newport Naval Education & Training Center](#)

Newport

RI

[Norfolk Naval Base \(Sewells Point Naval Complex\)](#)

Norfolk

VA

[Norfolk Naval Shipyard](#)

Portsmouth  
VA

[NWS Yorktown – Cheatham Annex](#)

Yorktown  
VA

[Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot](#)

Parris Island  
SC

[Patuxent River Naval Air Station](#)

Patuxent River  
MD

[Pearl Harbor Naval Complex](#)

Pearl Harbor  
HI

[Pensacola Naval Air Station](#)

Pensacola  
FL

[Port Hadlock Detachment \(USNAVY\)](#)

Indian Island  
WA

[Portsmouth Naval Shipyard](#)

Kittery  
ME

[Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Complex](#)

Bremerton  
WA

[South Weymouth Naval Air Station](#)

Weymouth  
MA

[St. Juliens Creek Annex \(U.S. Navy\)](#)

Chesapeake  
VA

[Treasure Island Naval Station-Hunters Point Annex](#)

San Francisco  
CA

[USN Air Station Cecil Field](#)

Jacksonville

FL

[Washington Navy Yard](#)

Washington

DC

[Whiting Field Naval Air Station](#)

Milton

FL

[Willow Grove Naval Air and Air Reserve Station](#)

Horsham

PA

[Yuma Marine Corps Air Station](#)

Yuma

AZ