



# 2016 Annual Water Quality Report

Fort Polk North Housing  
PWS ID: LA1115087



**This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone explain or translate it for you**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si no lo comprende, favor acudir a alguien que se lo pueda traducir o explicar.

## **Continuing Our Commitment**

### ***A Message From Military Services Group President Todd Duerr***

*American Water's Military Services Group owns and operates water and wastewater utilities under the Utilities Privatization program and proudly provides water and wastewater services to military communities around the country, including yours. Our Company's Vision – "Clean Water for Life" drives everything we do for you, our product consumer. To reinforce our vision and maintain your trust, it's important that we share with you information about our commitment to providing high-quality water service.*

*I am pleased to provide you with the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report with detailed information about the source and quality of your drinking water. We have prepared this report using the data from water quality testing conducted for your local water system from January through December 2016. You'll find that we supply water that surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations.*

*With equal importance, we place a strong focus on acting as stewards of our environment. In all of the communities we serve, we work closely with the local directorates of public works, civil engineering squadrons, local environmental departments and state regulatory agencies to protect environmental quality, educate customers on how to use water wisely, and ensure the high quality of your drinking water every day.*

*At American Water, our values – safety, trust, environmental leadership, teamwork, and high performance – result in more than making water available "on-demand". We deliver more than just water. We deliver a key resource for public health, fire protection, the economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy – Clean Water for Life. For more information or for additional copies of this report, visit us online at [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).*

*Sincerely,*

*Todd Duerr*

*President – American Water's Military Services Group*

## Water Information Sources

The Military Services Group of American Water provides water and wastewater contract services to military installations across the country as part of the federal government's Utility Privatization Program. It operates and maintains the water and/or wastewater assets at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Meade, Md., Fort Belvoir, Va., Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Polk, La., Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., Hill Air Force Base, Utah and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The Military Services Group is part of [American Water Enterprises](#), a market-based subsidiary of American Water.

Fort Polk American Water Military Services Group (AWE-MSG) provides water service to approximately 20,000 customers at the Fort Polk Military Post located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana. Fort Polk American Water Military Services Group is part of American Water. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly-traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

The web sites of US EPA Office of Water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. You may visit these sites as well as American Water's website at the following addresses:

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

### Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

[www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/)

### American Water

[www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com)

### American Water Works Association

[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** (800) 426-4791

## What is a Water Quality Report?

To comply with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to provide you an overview of last year's (2016) drinking water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. We hope the report will raise your understanding of drinking water issues and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. For more information, please contact Brian Raisor at 337-537-1178.

## How is Your Water Treated?

Current treatment processes include disinfection, addition of an inhibitor for corrosion control and fluoridation is provided for reduction of dental cavities. Throughout the process dedicated plant operations and water quality staff continuously monitor and control these plant processes to assure you, our customers, a superior quality water.

## Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of Fort Polk American Water and therefore do not receive this report directly.

## Water Conservation Tips

### Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

### You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

## Source Water Assessment Completed

A Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is a result of the 1996 amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Those amendments require all states to establish a program to assess the vulnerability of public water systems to potential contamination. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) completed the Source Water Assessment of waters of Louisiana by watershed. The assessment found that the reservoirs are potentially susceptible to contamination due to runoff from agricultural land. More detailed information regarding the Source Water Assessment for Louisiana Reservoirs can be found by contacting the Louisiana Department of the Environmental Quality at (866) 896-LDEQ, or [www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2986/Default.aspx](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2986/Default.aspx).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The sources of supply for Fort Polk North Housing are as follows:

Source Name	Source Water Type
Well 15D V 515 SOUTH	Ground Water
Well 16AD V 514 NORTH	Ground Water

## What is the pH (Acidity) Range of Your Water?

Water in the distribution system averages about 7.2 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral, neither acidic nor basic.

## Is There Fluoride in Your Water?

American Water adds approximately 0.7 ppm fluoride to the Fort Polk American Water treated water supply.

## Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is of high quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Fort Polk water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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, or wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or by calling our Customer Service Center at (800) 685-8660.

## Information About Lead

### Is there lead in my water?

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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. Fort Polk American Water 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 and copper 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 drinking 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 National Lead Information Center (800-LEAD-FYI) or the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## How to Read the Data Tables

American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the previous tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2016, certain substances are required to be monitored less than once per year and represent the most current results available. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2016 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Average Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Unregulated substances are measured, but maximum allowed contaminant levels have not been established by the government.

## Table Definitions and Abbreviations

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of disinfectant routinely allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of 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.

**mrem/year:** Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detected.

**NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

**pH:** A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.

**ppm (parts per million):** One-part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One-part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.

**ppt (parts per trillion):** One-part substance per trillion parts water, or nanograms per liter.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

## Water Quality Statement

American Water owns and operates the water distribution system on Fort Polk. American Water is required to sample for many different contaminants in your drinking water annually. The tables below only contain sample results for contaminants that were detected in your drinking water. Some contaminants are required to be sampled for less than annually and in these cases, the most recent sample results are provided below and the year they were collected.

During the period covered by this report we had below noted violations of drinking water regulations.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Type	Category	Contaminant	Compliance Period
No violations occurred in the calendar year of 2016.			

## REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Value	Range	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Di (2-Thylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2014	6	0	0.52	0.52	Yes	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
<b>RADIONUCLIDES</b>							
No Detected Results were found in the calendar year of 2016							
<b>DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2016	60	0	2	0.81-1.7	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	2016	80	0	6	3.2-5.7	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, no detected results were found in the calendar year 2016.

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Result	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Coliform, Total (TCR)	2016	More than one positive routine sample per month	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

## LEAD AND COPPER

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Sites Above AL	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2016	15	0	0	0	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2016	1.3	0	0.8	0.1-0.9	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

## SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Unit	Highest Value	Range	SMCL	Noticeable Effects Above Secondary MCL
Chloride	2014	mg/L	38.8	38.8	250	Salty taste
Iron	2014	mg/L	0.16	0.16	0.3	Rusty color; sediment; metallic taste; reddish staining
Manganese	2014	mg/L	0.05	0.05	0.05	Black to brown color; black staining; bitter metallic taste
pH	2014	pH	7.57	7.57	8.5	Low pH: bitter metallic taste; corrosion High pH: slippery feel; soda taste; deposits
Sulfate	2014	mg/L	23	23	250	Salty taste

## DISINFECTANTS

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Highest Running Annual Average	Unit	Range	MRDL or MCL	MRDLG or MCLG	Source
Chlorine	2016	1.51	ppm	0.8 - 1.9	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes