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United States Marine Corps

MCB Camp Lejeune Health Survey

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps

7 May 2001

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Briefing Outline

- ◆ Purpose of the Survey
- ◆ Background
- ◆ Marine Corps Efforts
- ◆ Next Steps
- ◆ Organizations Involved
- ◆ Summary
- ◆ Contact Information

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Purpose

- ◆ To determine if there is sufficient data available to conduct a study to evaluate whether there is an association between childhood illness and exposure to solvent contaminated water found in the base water supply from 1968 through 1985.
 - Survey being conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) began in September 1999.
 - Survey group consists of 16,500 parents of children who were either conceived or carried at Camp Lejeune from 1968 through 1985.
 - Eighty percent (13,200) of these parents must respond in order for a statistically valid study to be conducted.

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Background

- ◆ **Early 1980's –Camp Lejeune began routinely sampling its water distribution plants and discovered two solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE). Camp Lejeune investigates source of contamination and begins confirmation sampling of wells.**
- ◆ **January/February 1985 – Camp Lejeune officials complete testing of all wells in the base's eight water systems. Upon confirmation of these results, contaminated wells are identified and are shut down.**

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Background

- ◆ **May 1987 – The North Carolina Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch identifies ABC Dry Cleaners as possible source of Tarawa Terrace ground water contamination through the Superfund program. The Marine Corps provides technical and administrative assistance as necessary to help them accomplish remediation and cleanup.**
- ◆ **September 1988 – North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development established its first state standards for monitoring requirements of TCE and PCE in ground water.**
- ◆ **October 1989 – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune listed on the EPA National Priority List.**

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Background

- ◆ 1991 – ATSDR makes first site visit to Camp Lejeune as part its statutory duty to conduct a public health assessment on the 21 Operating Units of concern.
- ◆ 1997 – ATSDR publishes final public health assessment for Camp Lejeune.
- ◆ 1998 – ATSDR publishes final report “Volatile Organic Compounds in Drinking Water and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes”. Though the report identified a potential association between contaminated water and adverse pregnancy outcomes at Camp Lejeune, ATSDR instructed that the report should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size. This indicated a need for further study.
- ◆ 17 September 1999 -- ATSDR begins current survey.

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Marine Corps Efforts to Support ATSDR

- ◆ March-November 1999 - Marine Corps works with the Defense Manpower Data Center to provide ATSDR with survey participant SSN's .
- ◆ January 2000 – Camp Lejeune holds an open house.
- ◆ August 2000 – Marine Corps sends a message to all Marines worldwide in an effort to reach potential ATSDR survey participants.
- ◆ September 2000 – Camp Lejeune solicits participants for the ATSDR survey by sending press release to military base publications.
- ◆ October 2000 – Marine Corps moves the communication effort to its Washington headquarters and begins planning a national media outreach campaign.

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Marine Corps Efforts to Support ATSDR

- ◆ November 2000 – HQMC conducts Press Briefing.
- ◆ January 2001 – HQMC releases second message to all Marines.
- ◆ February 2001 – Regional Media burst begin in Eastern U.S.
- ◆ March 2001 – HQMC requests Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital to re-review medical records. Results in an additional 399 service member SSNs for ATSDR.
- ◆ March 2001 - HQMC reviews global e-mail addresses for children of eligible parents. E-mail review identifies 195 potential matches, who are contacted about the survey.

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Marine Corps Efforts to Support ATSDR

- ◆ April 2001 – HQMC requests Defense Privacy Office broaden its interpretation regarding extent of data releasable to ATSDR.
- ◆ April 2001 – HQMC provides toll-free number for listing in recruiting stations.
- ◆ May 2001 – Regional Media burst complete. 3571 media outlets contacted nationwide.

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Next Steps

- ◆ Continue to get the word out through press releases, interviews, web sites and other publications and programs targeted at survey population.
- ◆ Re-reviewing sources of information.
- ◆ Other data sources:
 - Marine Corps databases
 - Veterans Administration
 - Records archives

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Organizations Involved

- ◆ Department of the Navy
 - Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
 - MCB Camp Lejeune
 - Chief of Naval Operations
 - Naval Facilities Engineering Command
 - Bureau of Medicine
 - Navy Environmental Health Center
 - Office of the Judge Advocate General
- ◆ Office of the Secretary of Defense
- ◆ Defense Manpower Data Center
- ◆ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Summary

- ◆ **Camp Lejeune personnel may have been exposed to solvent-contaminated drinking water before 1985.**
- ◆ **ATSDR is conducting a survey to determine if enough information exists to determine if the exposure resulted in increased incidence of childhood illness.**
 - **As of 1 May 01 10,381 of 16,500 survey participants have responded.**
 - **13,200 survey participants needed for a statistically valid study.**
 - **Several efforts underway to identify and contact remaining survey participants.**

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Contact Information

◆ Survey Participants:

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
 - (800) 639-4270
 - 4827-lejeune@norcmail.uchicago.edu

◆ Information:

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
 - (888) 422-8737, Ext 5132
- Marine Corps Headquarters
 - (877) 261-9782

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Contact Information

➤ Web Sites

- www.atsdr.cdc.gov/
- www.usmc.mil/camlejwatersurvey
- www.lejeune.usmc.mil/watersurvey.html
- www.lejeune.usmc.mil/emd

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