



Now Hear This...

Toxic Water at Camp Lejeune

If you were military personnel or civilian persons stationed, employed, or otherwise attached to U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during the years from 1957 until 1987; this notice is for you & yours. While this will most likely pertain to Marine and Navy GIs & Vets, anyone who spent 30+ days there during this time frame NEEDS to be aware.

In the early 1980s it was discovered that two on-base water-supply systems at Camp Lejeune were contaminated with the volatile organic compounds trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent. Benzene, vinyl chloride, and other compounds were also found to be contaminating the water-supply systems. The water systems were contaminated from August 1953 through December 1987.

Those who served at or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1987 may be eligible for VA health benefits for 15 conditions: Esophageal cancer ~ Breast cancer ~ Kidney cancer ~ Multiple myeloma ~ Renal toxicity ~ Female infertility ~ Scleroderma ~ Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma ~ Lung cancer ~ Bladder cancer ~ Leukemia ~ Myelodysplastic syndromes ~ Hepatic steatosis ~ Miscarriage ~ Neurobehavioral effects.

A law signed by President Obama on August 6, 2012, entitled 'Honoring America's Veterans and

Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012' provides for VA medical care if you are suffering from any of the above medical conditions and spent the designated time at Camp Lejeune. VA will provide care immediately for those conditions while your eligibility is confirmed. Veterans already enrolled in VA health care, contact your local VA health care facility to receive care under this law. Those not already enrolled should call 1-877-222-8387 for assistance.

Hopefully most of you who this affects already know about it, but we do have a LOT of readers who are Veterans. And so, to help get the word out, we are sharing the following information from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.va.gov/health>. There is a button there specifically for information regarding Camp Lejeune and toxic water exposure.

There are numerous links online about this, including

<http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/20120823a.asp>

and a support group called 'The Few, The Proud, The Forgotten' at <http://www.tftptf.com>. Or simply use the search phrase 'Camp Lejeune water'.

Thank you to our friend, Michael DePaulo, COM, Plt. Sgt. USMC, RVN for his help in creating this notice.

Betsy