



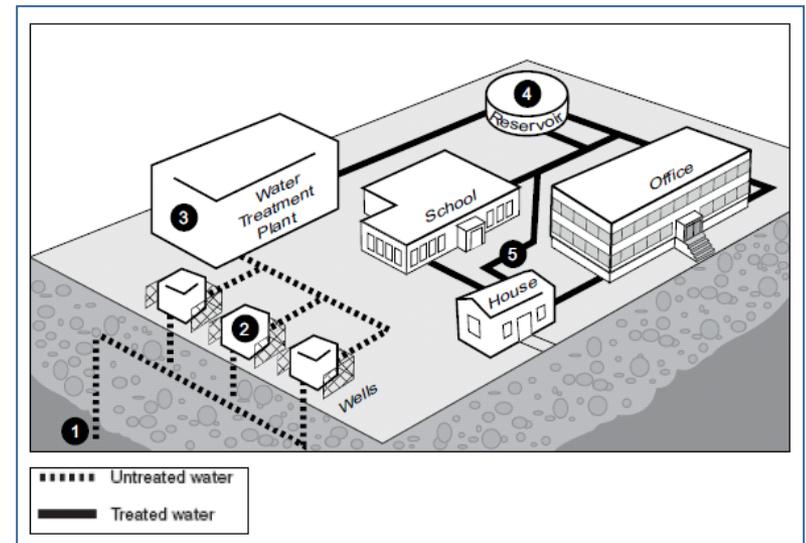
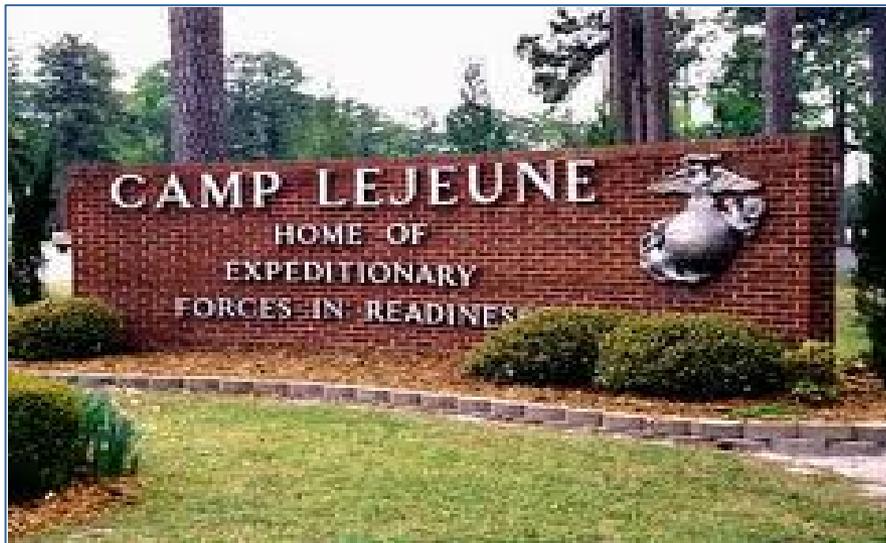
VA Implementation of Section 102 of the “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012”

Information Brief

October 2012

Camp Lejeune Historical Water Contamination

During the 1950s through the mid-1980s, people living or working at U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including industrial solvents and components of fuels



Section 102 “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012”

Provides hospital care and medical services for 15 conditions to Veterans and eligible Family Members who resided at Camp Lejeune (CL) for not less than 30 days beginning January 1, 1957 and ending December 31, 1987:

- Veterans on active-duty status
- Family Members of eligible Veterans who were residents or in-utero

Conditions in the Law

Esophageal cancer	Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma	Breast cancer	Bladder cancer
Kidney cancer	Myelodysplastic syndromes	Multiple myeloma	Leukemia
Renal toxicity	Hepatic steatosis	Female infertility	Miscarriage
Scleroderma	Neurobehavioral effects	Lung cancer	

Section 102 “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012”

VA began implementing the law for the Veteran population the day it was enacted on August 6, 2012

- Care provisions for Veterans:
 - Care provided at no cost to Veteran if related to illnesses/conditions in the law (third party insurance will not be billed)
 - Co-pays may apply for care that is unrelated to these illnesses/conditions
- Care for Family Members require appropriations and regulations:
 - Cannot provide care for conditions found to have another cause
 - VA is the last payer
- The law requires VA to provide annual reports on:
 - Number provided care
 - Medical conditions for which care was provided
 - Number denied care including the reasons for the denial
 - Number awaiting determination of eligibility

Implementation Steps - Outreach

- VHA Camp Lejeune website updated



- Updates for health care providers and other VA staff began in August; announced as they occur
- Briefings provided to congressional staff, VSOs, and Veterans on how VA is implementing the law
- Upcoming

- Banner on all VA medical center websites



- Fact Sheet for Veterans/Family Members
- Briefing to Camp Lejeune Community Assistance Panel (CAP) members

Implementation Steps - *Other*

- Created mechanism to track requests for care from CL Veterans and Family Members (Camp Lejeune Environmental Action Report (CLEAR) - *Implemented 8/21/12*)
- Implementation Task Force organized to engage and coordinate subject matter experts from across multiple work centers within VA (VHA, VBA, OGC, OCLA)*
- Social workers and eligibility clerks at all VA medical centers alerted to ensure that Family Members seeking care are sent to social work for assistance with identifying alternate care until congressional appropriation is provided
- OGC opinion on care for Veterans – Priority 6 (no co-pay for CL conditions); P7/8 (co-pay for non CL related conditions) if not otherwise eligible for VA health care – *Received 8/31/12*

*Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
Office of General Counsel (OGC)
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)

Implementation Steps - *Other*

- Process to verify ≥ 30 days at CL from 1957 to 1987 – *DOD Engaged 9/13/12*
- OGC opinion pending on the program under which Family Members can receive care
- Determination of specific covered medical conditions - determination about regulations pending
- Policy/legal determination on whether screening would be a covered benefit for Veterans and Family Members who request screening in the absence of current CL-related conditions
- Develop and implement business processes including IT changes
- Draft and finalize VHA Directive to provide guidance to VA staff in field
- Awaiting congressional appropriation to begin Family Member care

Potential Barriers and Risks

- Family Members with serious illnesses may seek care prior to congressional appropriation
- Concern that the law is not being applied fairly to both Veterans and Family Members
- Congressional appropriation may occur before implementing regulations are published
- Concern that VA is “unfair” because Veterans may receive care through VHA yet be denied benefits and compensation for a condition listed in the law
- Perception that this law also covers VBA compensation

Other Points - *Disability*

Service at Camp Lejeune is not a presumption for disability benefits

- Veterans who feel they have an illness related to service at Camp Lejeune during 1957-1987 should file a disability claim
- Claims are reviewed on a case-by-case basis

Other Points - *Health Research*

- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has health studies in progress on people who were at Camp Lejeune
 - Results expected in late 2012:
 - Pregnancy outcomes
 - Birth defects and childhood cancers
 - Other studies underway:
 - Health questionnaire survey
 - Mortality study

Other Points - *USMC Registry*

The USMC has an informational “notification registry” and encourages everyone who was at CL before 1987 to enroll at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Registry. At the top left is the Marine Corps logo with the text "MARINES THE FEW. THE PROUD." and "CAMP LEJEUNE" on the right. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Background Information, Registry Summary, FAQs, Events Summary, In the News, and Resources. The main content area features a large blue box with the text "Need to Register?" and a "GET STARTED" button. To the right, there is a section titled "Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water" with a brief description and a "Learn More" link. Below this, there are three smaller boxes: "Find us on Facebook" with a Facebook icon and text about the CLHDW Facebook page; "ATSDR Health Survey" with the ATSDR logo and text about the health survey; and "What's New" with a map of the United States and a link to the Registry Summary. The bottom of the page shows a scroll bar and a page number "4 of 7".

Questions?

VHA Camp Lejeune Water Supplies website

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune