OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MAR 18 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT AND LOGISTICS)

SUBJECT: Fluoridation at DoD Owned or Operated Potable Water Treatment Plants

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)) has determined that providing optimally fluoridated water at DoD installations helps to improve and sustain the military readiness and health of military personnel (see attached memorandum, "Fluoridation of Water Supplies under the Control of the Department of Defense," dated July 18, 2011). In the attached memorandum, the ASD(HA) identifies dental decay as a significant reason for military personnel to be classified as non-deployable and recommends optimizing fluoridation in DoD potable water treatment systems.

Therefore, in support of the health and readiness of our military personnel, DoD installations in the United States and territories that own or operate a potable water treatment facility serving 3,300 persons or more must provide optimally fluoridated water beginning in Fiscal Year 2016. Fluoridation should be required in future potable water treatment plant privatizations. Existing privatized potable water treatment plants will incorporate the fluoridation requirement as opportunities become available.

I request that each Military Department provide this office, within 180 days, your schedule for implementing this policy to optimize fluoridation. If there are questions, the points of contact are Mr. Ed Miller, at 571-372-604, ODUSD(I&E) or Colonel Gary Martin, at 301-319-6972, OASD(HA).

John Conger
Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)

Attachment:
As stated

cc: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
Defense Logistics Agency (Installations Support)

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

18 July 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)

SUBJECT: Fluoridation of Water Supplies under the Control of the Department of Defense

Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1010.10, dated August 22, 2003, "Health Promotion and Disease/Injury Prevention," establishes the DoD requirement to implement health promotion, disease and injury prevention programs, and population health to improve and sustain military readiness and the health, fitness, and quality of life of military personnel, DoD personnel, and other beneficiaries. This Directive also requires DoD to support the achievement of the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People Goals and Objectives. One of these objectives is to provide optimally fluoridated water to the U.S. population. Providing optimally fluoridated water is a proven disease prevention program that improves and sustains the military readiness and health of military personnel. With the current scientific evidence supporting the benefits of fluoride in preventing dental decay for all ages, to include adults, it is critical that DoD provide this proven public health benefit. This will ensure improved dental readiness and health for Active Duty personnel.

Dental decay continues to be a major problem for military personnel and is a significant reason for personnel to be classified as non-deployable. The junior enlisted (E1–E3) have the highest risk for dental decay among Active Duty personnel, and many of them reside in on-base housing facilities. Providing optimally fluoridated water will directly reduce their risk for dental decay and improve dental readiness. The enclosed recent survey on the level of fluoride in drinking water at DoD installations in the United States was conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Tri-Service Center for Oral Health Studies. Review of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 158 military installations was performed, and this included 210 water systems. The CCRs for 189 of these systems were obtained by Pew. There are 14 military installations that operate water treatment facilities and are not providing optimally fluoridated water to their population.

For locations where optimally fluoridated water is not available, prescriptions for supplemental fluoride tablets is an option. However, several studies have shown that compliance with daily ingestion of the fluoride tablet is poor, which decreases the effectiveness of preventing dental decay. By far, the most effective preventive program for preventing dental decay is water fluoridation. I request that your office ensure that all DoD facilities operating a water treatment facility that services over 3,300 personnel provide optimally fluoridated water, and that ongoing education for water plant personnel continue with appropriate surveillance by State and local health officials.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Jonathan Woodson, M.D.

Enclosure:
As stated

Service	Name	State	Zip	Closest city	Est. Base Pop.	Military	Utility	Fluoride Level (ppm)	Range (ppm)	Most recent fluoride sample	Most recent CCR
USN	NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION CHINA LAKE--Well 31	CA	93558	China Lake	4,600	M	NAWS China Lake	0.41	n/a	2008	2008
USN	NAVAL AIR STATION LEMOORE	CA	93246	Lemoore	14,929	M	NAS Lemoore	n/a	n/a	2008	2008
USN	NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND / CORONADO--Coronado	CA	92135	San Diego	25,000	M	NAS North Island/Coronado	0.24	0.17-0.29	2008	2008
USMC	USMC CAMP PENDLETON (area 1)--North System	CA	92055	Camp Pendleton	37,600	M	USMC Fort Pendleton	0.31	0.27-0.39	2008	2008
USAF	EGLIN AFB - MAIN BASE	FL	32542	Ft Walton Beach	13,000	M	Eglin AFB	0.27	0.22-0.27	2008	2008
USN	NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA--NAS and Corry Field	FL	32508	Pensacola	20,205	M	NAS Pensacola	0.25	ND-0.25	2008	2008
USN	US NAVAL ACADEMY ANNAPOLIS	MD	21402	Annapolis	8,700	M		0.39	n/a	2008	2008
USN	NCBC GULFPORT	MS	39501	Gulfport	9,191	M	NCBC Gulfport	0.12	0.10-0.12	2008	2008
USMC	USMC AIR STATION CHERRY POINT	NC	28532	Havelock	14,395	M	MCAS Cherry Point	0.169	n/a	2008	2008
USMC	USMC AIR STATION NEW RIVER	NC	28540	Jacksonville	10,159	M	MCAS New River Water Treatment System	0.23	n/a	2006	2008
USMC	USMC CAMP LEJEUNE-- MCAS New River	NC	28542	Camp Lejeune	49,305	M	MCAS New River Water Treatment System	0.23	n/a	2006	2008
US ARMY	FORT SAM HOUSTON	TX	78234	San Antonio	7,000	M	Ft Sam Houston	0.4	0.1-1.57	2008	2008
USN	NAVAL BASE KITSAP - Bangor	WA	98315	Bangor	15,843	M	Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor	ND	ND	2008	2008
USAF	DOVER AFB**	DE	19902	Dover	8,000	M	Dover AFB	0.98	n/a	2007	2008
	** DOVER AFB stopped fluoridating the water in 2010										