



**2018 Consumer Confidence Report**  
**For**  
**Otis Air National Guard Base**  
**Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts**  
**MASSDEP PWSID #4096001**



This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that we provided between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of our water users.

**PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION**

Address: **Otis Air National Guard Base on Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts**

Contact Person: Mr. Richard Souza

Telephone #: (508) 968-4102

***Water System Improvements***

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. As part of our ongoing commitment to service, the MassDEP Drinking Water Program has determined that the public water supply system at Otis Air National Guard Base is compliant with all national Primary Drinking Water Standards and MassDEP Drinking Water Regulations.

**DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

***Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?***

Our drinking water supply is provided entirely by groundwater. J-Well (4096001-01G), which is located on Herbert Road, is our primary pumping station. We are also connected to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative. The Cooperative's water sources come from three wells located in the northeastern corner of Joint Base Cape Cod. On average, we provide up to 300,000 gallons of high-quality water every day. All of the Otis public water supply is drawn from the Sagamore Lens of the Cape Cod single-source aquifer. This lens runs from the Cape Cod Canal eastward into the town of Yarmouth. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Surf Your Watershed" website at the following link: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
J-Well	4096001-01G	Groundwater	Herbert Road

***Is My Water Treated?***

Our drinking water is treated with potassium carbonate, sodium fluoride, and sodium hypochlorite. The water in this geographic area is naturally acidic, with an average pH of 5.9 (7.0 is neutral). Acidic water can be harmful to the distribution system. Potassium carbonate is used to buffer the water to as close to a neutral pH as possible. At the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, which is the owner and operator of the family housing area, sodium fluoride is added to the water. This compound has proven effective in strengthening teeth. Finally, sodium hypochlorite is used to disinfect the water supply by killing bacteria. We make every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove several contaminants. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

### ***How Are These Sources Protected?***

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program, established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources; to assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and to publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

MassDEP has prepared a SWAP Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

### ***What is My System's Ranking?***

A susceptibility ranking of HIGH was assigned to this system due to the absence hydrogeological barriers (i.e., clay) that can prevent contaminant migration.

### ***Where Can I See The SWAP Report?***

Information on obtaining the complete SWAP Report is available by contacting the Water Supply Superintendent at (508) 968-4102. To access the SWAP Report on the Internet, go to the Source Water Assessment & Protection (SWAP) Program Website at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program>

### ***What Are the Key Issues For Our Water Supply?***

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Our drinking water well may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm runoff, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Also, being a military facility, Otis Air National Guard Base has the potential of having fuel, chemicals, and other material(s) as possible sources of contamination. Citizens and on base personnel can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

### ***What Can Be Done To Improve Protection?***

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives when implemented
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to locally established hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

## **SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER**

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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. In some cases, water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground and dissolves radioactive material. The water 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, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants** – such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** – which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants** – including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants** – which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and U.S. EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**Unregulated Contaminants** – Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

**Running Annual Average (RAA)** – The average of four consecutive quarter of data.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Level 1 Assessment** – A Level 1 assessment is 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 Level 2 assessment is 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.

## UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

MFL	= Million Fibers per Liter
mrem/year	= millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
N/A	= Not Applicable
ND	= Not Detected
pCi/L	= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
ppm	= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppt	= parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

### **What Does This Data Represent?**

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table.

Bacteria	MCL/TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	0	2018	N	Human and animal fecal waste

### **What About Lead Exposure?**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health 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. Otis Air National Guard Base 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 exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or on the Internet, at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Substance (unit of measurement)	Date(s) Collected	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2018	0.2	15	0	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2018	0.448	1.3	1.3	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Asbestos (MFL)	2013	N/A	ND	7	7	N	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2018	0.016	0.00-0.016	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2015	0.51	0.00-0.51	100	100	N	Discharge from pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)*	2018	0.76	0.00-0.76	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
*Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
Nitrate (ppm)	2018	1.92	0.07-1.92	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2017	ND	N/A	1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	2018	ND	N/A	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	2015	1.10	0.623-1.10	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	QTR3 (2018)	24.8	20.2-29.4	80	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	QTR3 (2018)	4.27	2.68-5.86	60	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly in (2018)	1.87	0.01-1.87	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

### ***Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants***

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>	<b>Date(s) Collected</b>	<b>Result or Range Detected</b>	<b>Average Detected</b>	<b>SMCL</b>	<b>ORSG</b>	<b>Possible Source(s) of Contamination</b>
Bromodichloromethane	2015	2.70	1.35	N/A	N/A	Trihalomethane; by-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	2018	2.13-2.16	2.145	N/A	70	By-product of drinking water chlorination (In non-chlorinated sources it may be naturally occurring)
Chromium-6	2015	0.29	0.145	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Dibromodichloromethane	2015	3.40	1.70	N/A	N/A	Trihalomethane; By-product of drinking water chlorination
Manganese* (ppb)	2017	0.016	0.008	N/A	300	Erosion of natural deposits
*US EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.						
Methyl tertiary butyl ether* or MTBE (ppb)	2016	0.63	0.315	20-40	70	Fuel additive; leaks and spills from gasoline storage tanks
*EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L						
Sodium (ppm)	2018	5.8-14.0	9.9	N/A	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

## **COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS**

### ***Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?***

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

### ***Health Effects Statements***

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons 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. The U.S. 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 at (800) 426-4791 or on the Internet, at the following link:

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>

## **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

### ***Do I Need To Be Concerned about Certain Contaminants Detected in My Water?***

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 ppm of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system at Otis Air National Guard Base has a fluoride concentration of 0.7 mg/l. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than 4 ppm of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease.

Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 ppm of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover the fluoride levels in your drinking water to exceed 2 ppm because of the cosmetic dental problem. Some home water treatment units are available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call the NSF International at 1-800-NSF-MARK (1-800-673-6275). For more information, please call the Water Superintendent at (508) 968-4102 or for additional information on fluoride in drinking water, contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health, (617) 624-5943.

### ***Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention***

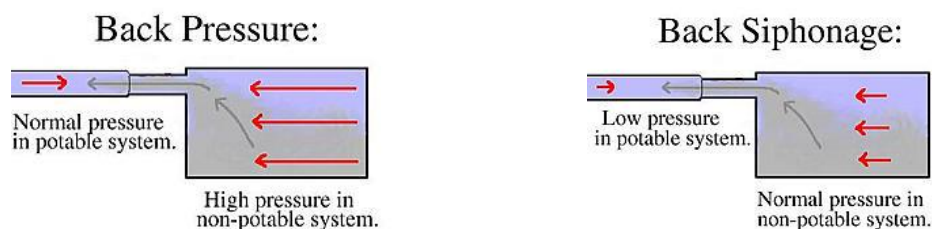
Otis Air National Guard Base makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers or withdrawal point from a surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

#### ***What is a cross-connection?***

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

#### ***What is a backflow?***

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.



#### ***What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?***

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ***Tap Water vs. Bottled Water***

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 73 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out "The Truth About Tap" website at the following link: [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp)

### ***Brown, Red, Orange, or Yellow Water***

Brown, red, orange, or yellow water is usually caused by rust. The different colors can be attributed to varying chemical oxidation states of the iron (rust) and by varying concentrations of the rust in the water. There are two major sources that can cause water to be rusty:

- The water mains, or
- The water pipes in your building

Rusty water occurs from sediment or rust from the inside walls of the water mains. The rust can be disturbed and temporarily suspended in water with unusual water flows from water main breaks or maintenance or by flushing of a hydrant. This discolored water is not a health threat.

When the water is discolored it is recommended to either not wash laundry or to use a rust stain remover or regular detergent but not chlorine bleach as it will react with the iron to form a permanent stain.

The other major cause of brown, red, orange or yellow water is rusty water pipes in your building. Water that is being discolored by rusty pipes is not a health hazard.