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Navy Working with HI Department of Health to Resolve Reports of Chemical Odor in Water in Affected Military Housing

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Navy and Department of Health test results on water samples from various locations on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, including military housing, have not detected petroleum constituents in initial testing.

More stringent tests are being conducted by qualified independent water testing labs on the mainland to ensure water purity meets EPA standards. Results are expected later this week.

The Navy's current guidance for Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam military housing residents is to report any chemical or petroleum odors associated with their potable water. If chemical or petroleum odors are present, recommend avoiding ingestion as a cautionary measure. The Navy is moving forward to provide sources of drinking water to affected residents and to sample affected locations.

On Sunday and Monday, Navy engineers inspected water storage tanks, wells and distribution lines and flushed distribution lines associated with housing communities reporting contamination of their water supply. Navy engineers visited military homes of families who reported a chemical or petroleum smell and collected samples for analysis. The Navy also collected and tested samples from other locations associated with the water distribution system.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander sent an update to military housing residents Monday reinforcing the Navy's commitment to keeping the water safe. He also provided a phone number for individuals to call who have concerns about their water.

The Navy continues to work with the Department of Health on lab testing the Navy's water samples. Engineers and Public Works specialists are tracking resident concerns.

The Navy continues to monitor and investigate and will update residents and other stakeholders.