

U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE Camp Lejeune

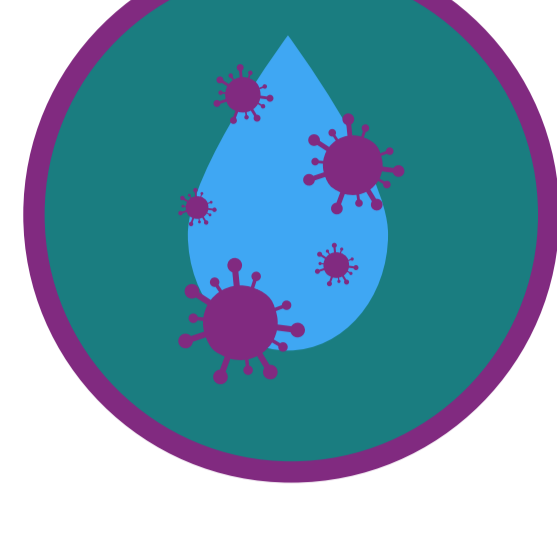
Water Contamination Affects 1 Million

The Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina supports a Marine, Navy and Coast Guard command. It has the largest concentration of Marines and sailors in the world.



Harmful Chemicals Get Into Water Supply

Cleaning solvents and fuel pollutants made their way into Camp Lejeune wells and water supply, along with pollution from leaking underground storage tanks.



Staggering Number of Chemicals Found

Volatile organic compounds Perchloroethylene (PCE), Trichloroethylene (TCE), Benzene and more than 70 chemicals were contaminating the base's water.



The Unsuspecting Use Tainted Water

From at least 1957 through 1987, Marines and their families in many of the main housing areas bathed in and drank this contaminated water.



Toxicity Leads Many To Become Ill

The concentrations were up to 3,400x levels permitted by safety standards, causing some soldiers and family members to get sick, and even die.

1 million

Soldiers, military personnel and support staff, families and contractors – anyone who spent 30 days or more at Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987 were considered exposed.

Did you know...

The government shut down Camp Lejeune's contaminated water supply in the mid-1980s – then the government turned the water back on in violation of the law and once again EXPOSED soldiers and their families to toxic water?

That congress passed a law providing for medical care benefits and reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses if you were at Camp Lejeune during that time? The VA will consider disability compensation claims on a case-by-case basis.

The Supreme Court ruled on June 9, 2014 that a group of homeowners in North Carolina could not sue a company that contaminated their drinking water decades ago because a state deadline for bringing the suit had lapsed? A decision that could prevent 1 million at Camp Lejeune from recovering damages after being exposed to toxic water there.

That North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law a bill that clarified the original "statute of repose," saying it was only meant to cover product liability lawsuits and not meant to keep camp Lejeune victims from seeking damages?

According to a February 2014 report issued by the CDC Marines from Camp Lejeune had a....

- 35%** higher risk of kidney cancer
- 42%** higher risk of liver cancer
- 47%** higher risk of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- 50%** higher risk of ALS
- 68%** higher risk of Multiple Myeloma



Conditions and illnesses associated by the VA to the toxic groundwater are: esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, adult leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage with exposure during pregnancy, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects, non-hodgkins lymphoma.

What to do:

Family members need to ask to be added to the VA's Camp Lejeune database. The VA will notify you once regulations have been published.

Family members will need documents showing their relationship to a veteran who served at camp Lejeune, such as a marriage license or birth certificate.

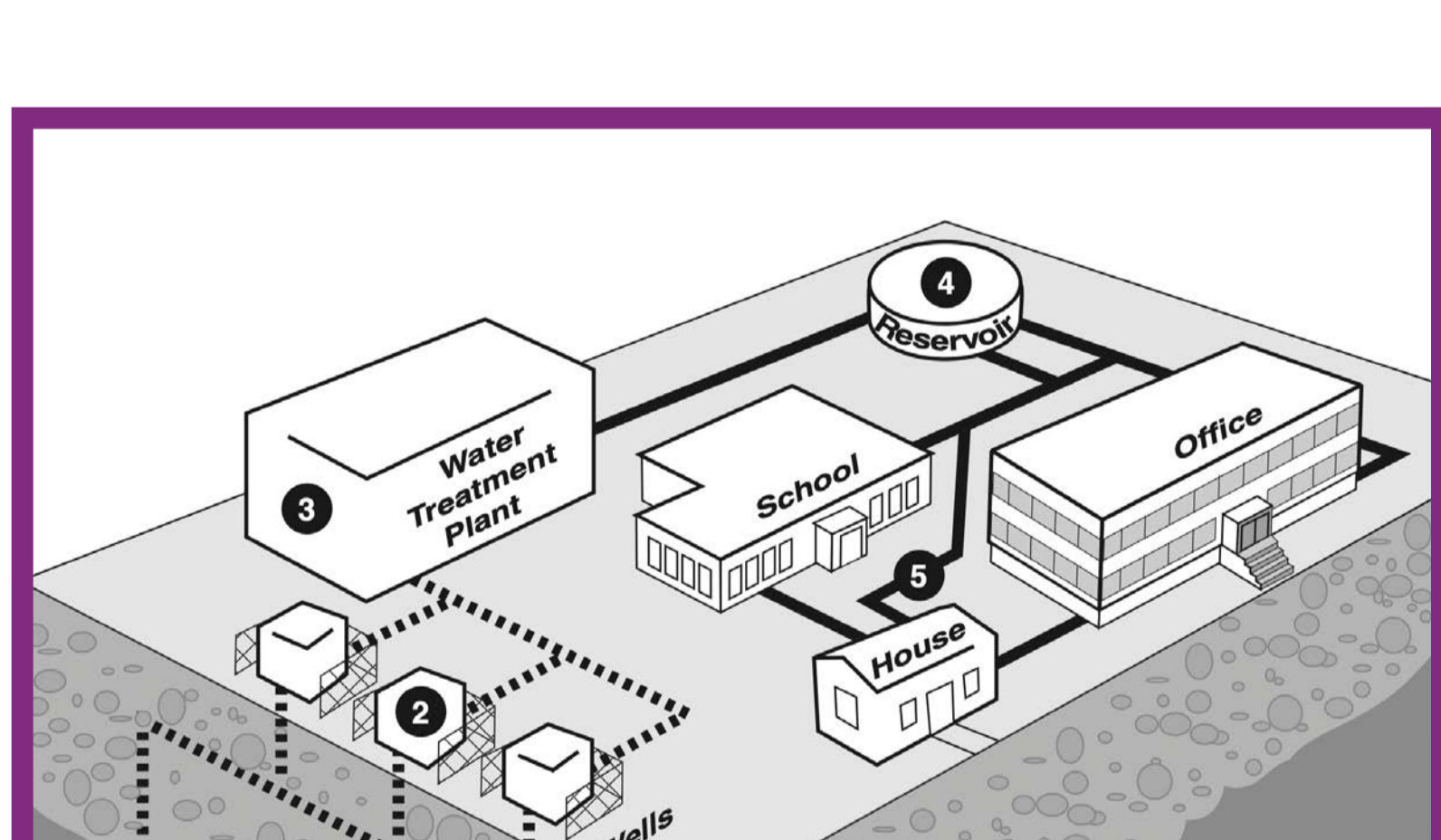
Family members need documents showing they lived on base for 30 days or more between Aug. 1 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987, such as base housing records.

Family members need to keep receipts for health care expenses they paid for one of the 15 covered conditions on or after March 26, 2013. This is the date when Congress began to fund this particular program.

How the toxic water made its way to soldiers and families

SOURCES: May 2007 GAO Report, "Defense Health Care: Activities Related to Past Drinking Water Contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune," AP Reporting

- 1** Camp Lejeune's drinking water is obtained from groundwater pumped from a freshwater aquifer located approximately 180 feet below the ground. Chemicals and more than 70 volatile organic compounds have been found or leaked into the ground and dived their way into the aquifer.
- 2** Groundwater is pumped through the numerous base wells located near the water treatment plants.
- 3** In the water treatment plant, the untreated water is mixed and treated through several processes: removal of



- 4** After the water is treated, it is stored in ground and elevated storage reservoirs.
- 5** When needed, treated water is pumped from the reservoirs and tanks to such facilities as offices, hospitals, schools and homes on the base. Residents drank and bathed in this water. The Naval Hospital used tainted water.

Locations of tainted wells, base housing

Out of the more than 600 polluted sites on the 170-square mile base, here are the major areas of contamination at Camp Lejeune.

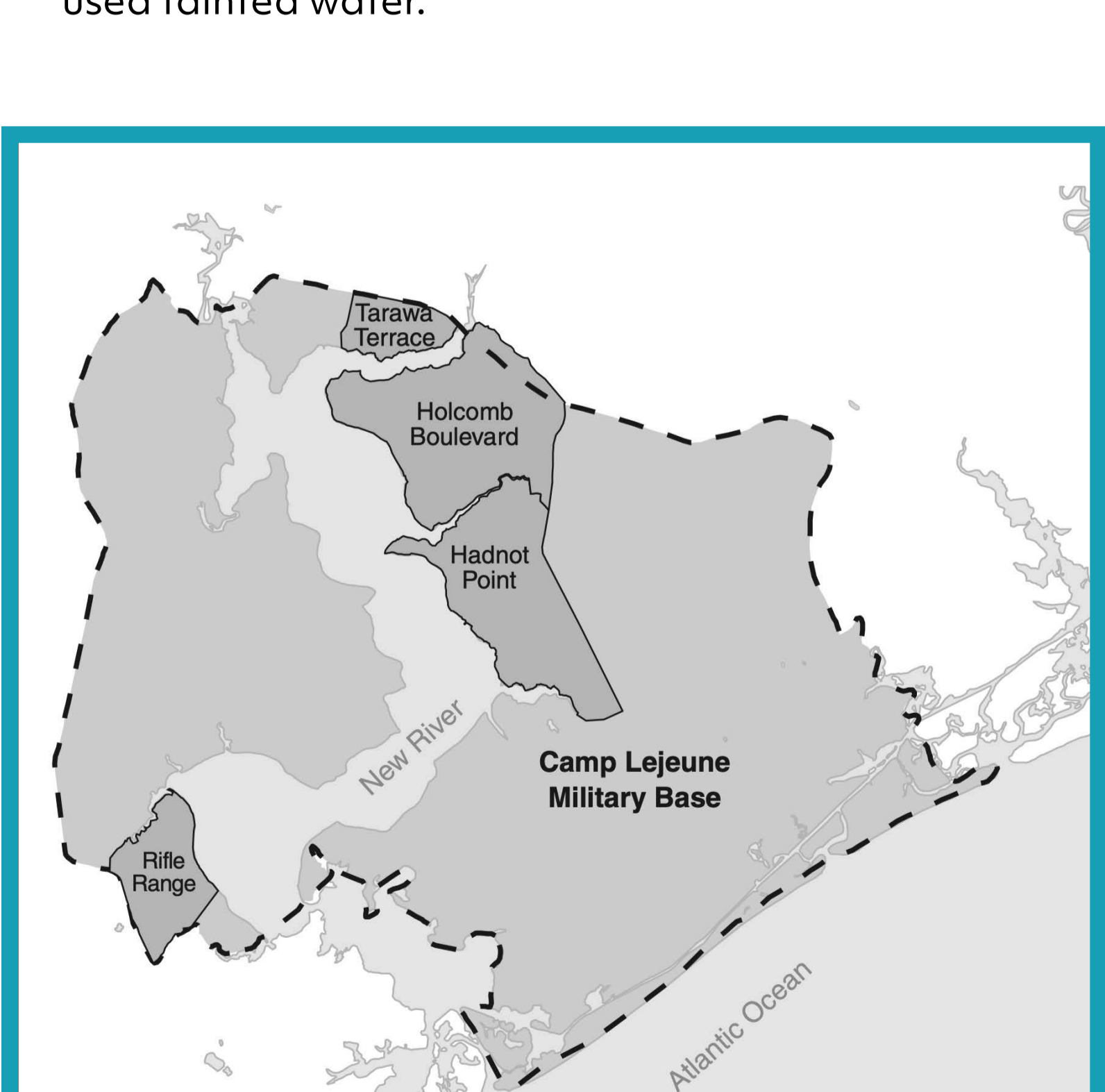
ABC Cleaners and Housing Area
ABC Cleaners, a now-closed, onsite business, dumped cancer causing solvents into the Lejeune water table. ABC Cleaners was the primary source of the TCE and PCE contamination in the well water provided to Tarawa Terrace, according to the military.

Naval Hospital
Used tainted water.

Well No. 651
Highly contaminated, an astounding 18, 900 parts per billion TCE when it was finally cleaned in 1985; located on lot 203 – a 46-acre storage area and dump from which TCE, PCE, PCBs and the pesticide DDT leaked into Hadnot Point water wells.

Fuel Farm
Excessive pollution – including leaked benzene – from an outdated, poorly maintained fuel farm in the Hadnot Point area, where the Naval hospital and housing for most of the enlisted men and their families were located.

Radio shop
Located in the middle of a cluster of drinking water wells serving a main residential section, workers routinely dumped solvents onto the ground.



SOURCES: AP reporting; Tampa Bay Times reporting; testimony from 2007 U.S. Senate hearing, "Poisoned Patriots: Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune"; testimony from 2010 House subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight hearing, "Camp Lejeune: Contamination and Compensation, Looking Back, Moving Forward."

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