



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 128TH AIR REFUELING WING (ANG)**

28 JANUARY 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE SINICKI

FROM: 128 ARW/CC
1919 E Grange Ave
Milwaukee WI 53207-6142

SUBJECT: PFAS Informational Meeting

1. The 128th Air Refueling Wing (128 ARW) is unable to attend the public informational meeting that is being organized by your office for Feb. 1 at Cudahy High School. However, we are providing the following information and resources to be shared with the public.

2. The 128 ARW is following the Air Force response regarding perfluorooctane sulfate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The 128 ARW is working with stakeholders, to include Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Air National Guard Readiness Center, by using a three-step approach – identify, respond, and prevent.

a. Identify - The 128 ARW is conducting investigation work and response actions guided by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The 128 ARW has completed both the preliminary assessment and site inspection and is pursuing the next step of remedial investigation. In addition, the 128 ARW is coordinating with Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport to complete a work plan in accordance with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WI DNR) hazardous substance spill law.

b. Respond – The Air Force Civil Engineer Center is ready to respond to drinking water impacts that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion. There are no identified drinking water systems in the surrounding neighborhoods exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory level.

c. Prevent - The 128 ARW has replaced the aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) in fire trucks, stockpiles, and hangar fire suppression systems with a more environmentally responsible formulation as required by the Department of Defense. Fire trucks at the 128 ARW have been retrofitted with a system that prevents foam discharge during equipment testing and training. The 128 ARW is following Air Force guidance which only allows discharge of foam during real-world fire emergencies.

3. The Wisconsin National Guard also is working in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR regarding PFOS/PFOA concerns at its facilities, including the 128 ARW. The 128 ARW is

committed to participating in any local informational meetings on this issue hosted by the Wisconsin DNR.

4. The 128 ARW is a community partner by providing fire and emergency support to aircraft emergencies at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, as well as, responds regularly to mutual aid calls from local communities including Cudahy, Milwaukee, Oak Creek, St. Francis, and South Milwaukee.

5. The 128 ARW recommends the following website resources describing the Air Force and Department of Defense response.

a. Air Force Civil Engineer Center

[\(https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/\)](https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/)

b. Department of Defense

[\(https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/\)](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/)

6. Any inquiries can be directed to the 128 ARW Public Affairs office by calling 414-944-8715 or preferably by email at usaf.wi.128-arw.list.environmental-affairs@mail.mil.

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Commander