Lajes Field Quarterly Drinking Water Quality Report

October - December 2014

The 65th Medical Operations Squadron, Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) Flight informs consumers quarterly about the quality of their drinking water. BE conducts monthly testing to ensure compliance with the Final Governing Standards for Portugal (FGS-P). The FGS-P water quality standards are a combination of the standards published within the European Union, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act, and local Portuguese standards. Lajes Field has seven groundwater wells and six storage reservoirs which supply our potable water system. All seven wells extract water from the same partially-confined aquifer, which meets the demand requirements for the entire installation. Lajes Field chlorinates water for disinfection purposes prior to distribution.

The sources for drinking water, tap and bottled water (no bottled water is produced on this island) includes 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 materials and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

From October to December 2014, BE collected a total of 124 various water samples. The drinking water for Lajes Field was sampled for all contaminants required per the FGS-P. All samples were within FGS-P parameters equating to a 100% compliance rate.

Individual analyte results are available for review by contacting the BE office number listed below.

For more information contact:
- 65 MDOS/SGOJ (BE), DSN 535-6206 or commercial 295-576-206
- 65 MDG/SGP, DSN 535-3261 or commercial 295-573-261

Look for me at www.lajes.af.mil