

The Camp Lejeune Litigation

Summary of Contamination

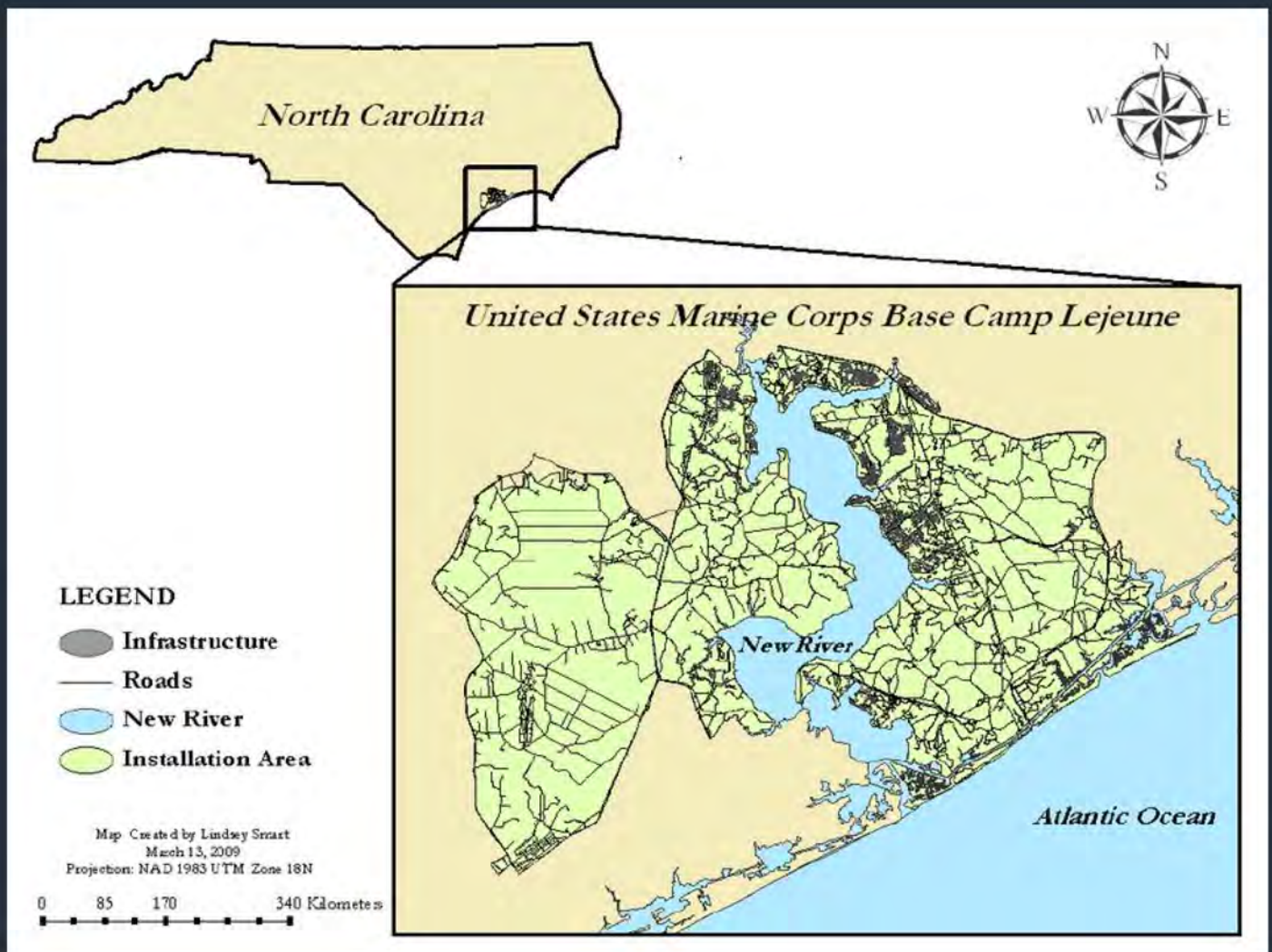
For over thirty years, the water at the Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with toxic chemicals known to cause cancer and a host of other chronic diseases and conditions. Hundreds of thousands of servicemembers and civilians drank, bathed in, cooked with, and swam in that water. The government knew about the contamination by the early 1980s, but failed to warn the victims for decades that they were at increased risk for serious health problems.

Until now, the victims of the Navy's toxic water supply have been denied recovery. Past lawsuits under the Federal Tort Claims Act were dismissed because of legal technicalities. But the Camp Lejeune Justice Act will finally bring long-overdue relief to the hundreds of thousands of victims harmed by the Navy. The Government has estimated that it will pay victims \$21 billion under the Act.

This overview provides a detailed summary of the contamination at Camp Lejeune.

U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Established in 1941, U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile, 156,000-acre military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina. From the early 1950s to the mid-1980s, nearly one million individuals resided at the base.



U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Onslow County
Jacksonville, North Carolina
White Oak River Basin

Toxic Water at Camp Lejeune

In 1982, the Marine Corps discovered toxic chemicals at two water treatment plants that provided the drinking water to the majority of residents on Camp Lejeune (Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point).

The chemicals found in Camp Lejeune's water included four different types of volatile organic compounds (VOCs):

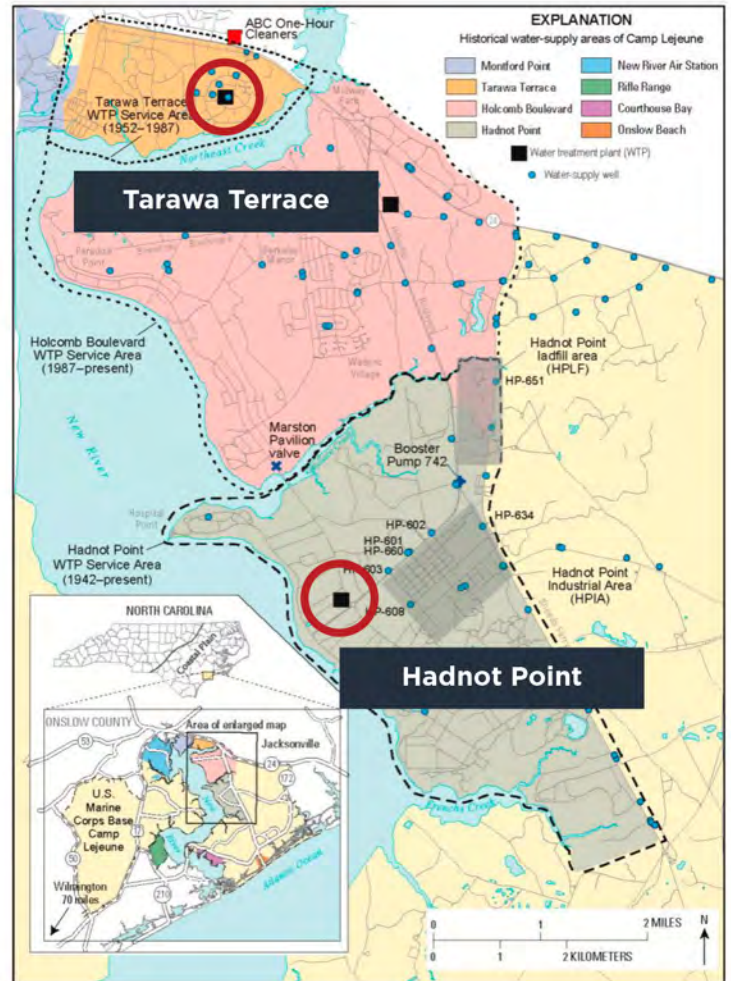
- Trichloroethylene (TCE)
- Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- Benzene
- Vinyl chloride

VOCs are highly toxic chemical compounds used and produced in the manufacture of:

- Petroleum fuels
- Paints and paint thinners
- Dry cleaning agents
- Pharmaceuticals

Tests of the water at Camp Lejeune show that the levels of these VOC's were shockingly high: **240 to 3,400 times** the levels permitted by government safety standards.

Later-discovered documents reveal that, between 1988 and 1991, there was as much as 1.1 million gallons of gasoline floating on top of the groundwater table at Camp Lejeune.



Harms Caused by the Toxic Water at Camp Lejeune

The chemicals found in the tap water at Camp Lejeune are extremely dangerous. Exposure is linked to:

Aplastic anemia
Bile duct cancer
Bladder cancer
Brain cancer
Cardiac birth defects
Cervical cancer
Colon cancer
Esophageal cancer
Female breast cancer
Female infertility
Hepatic steatosis
(Fatty Liver Disease)
Hodgkin's Disease

Hypersensitivity Skin Disorder
Intestinal cancer
Kidney cancer
Kidney disease
Leukemias
Liver cancer
Liver cirrhosis
Male breast cancer
Miscarriages
Multiple myeloma
Myelodysplastic Syndrome
Neurobehavioral effects
Non-cardiac birth defects

Non-Hodgkins lymphoma
Ovarian cancer
Pancreatic cancer
Parkinson's Disease
Prostate cancer
Rectal cancer
Renal toxicity
Soft tissue cancer
Systemic sclerosis
Scleroderma
Thyroid Cancer

The science on the harms of VOCs is still developing. There is reason to suspect that the water at Camp Lejeune could have caused other serious diseases and injuries as well. Keller Postman is working with scientific experts to investigate the connection between the water at Camp Lejeune and these additional diseases and harms.

“One of the saddest places in America has to be the humble stretch of ground at a Jacksonville, N.C., cemetery called ‘Baby Heaven.’”

“A Trust Betrayed: The Untold Story of Camp Lejeune” by Mike Magner” by Manuel Roig-Franzia



Decades of Delay

The Navy knew the water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated by the early 1980s at the latest. Indeed, scientists repeatedly warned the Navy that the water was toxic!

But the Navy **waited until 1987** to fully shut down the contaminated water systems.

The Navy then waited decades longer—until 2007—before fully notifying the families.

Once families began to bring claims against the government, the government relied on legal technicalities to get the lawsuits dismissed. Specifically, the government successfully argued that the victims had waited too long to file their claims (even though they had no way of knowing the cause of their injuries) and that claims by veterans were barred because the military was immune from liability.

Installation CAMP LEJEUNE HADNOT POINT
Date Collected 26 FEB 81 PM

AVE 63

Source	Sample Number	CHL ₃	CHL ₂ BE	CHL ₂ E ₂	OD ₂	MB/L TIME
WTP	181	48.6	9.6	5.4	1.7	65
NH-1	182	54.5	13.8	5.5	0.2	74
1202	183	46.6	10.6	4.2	0.1	62
65	184	45.5	9.4	5.0	0.1	60
FC-530	185	43.6	8.5	4.2	0.1	56
Reference OBS						
True						

Date Received 9 MAR 81
Date Analyzed 9 MAR 81

Remarks: WATER HIGHLY CONTAMINATED WITH OTHER CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS (SOLVENTS)!

William C. Neal, Jr.
WILLIAM C. NEAL, JR.
Chief, Laboratory Services

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“For years, government officials covered up their crime. Then, when the truth came out, they relied on legal loopholes to escape the consequences.... Fortunately, change is just over the horizon.”