

**Response provided to journalist
12 July 2016**

QUESTIONS:

I have the following questions about the preliminary PFOS/PFOA sampling program currently underway at RAAF Amberley.

- 1) Have any samples been taken outside of the base boundary, on residents property?
- 2) What sort of samples are being taken? Water or soil etc
- 3) What date will sample results be made public?

RESPONSE TO ALL:

Defence completed preliminary sampling at RAAF Base Amberley in June 2016. The purpose of the preliminary sampling is to understand if PFOS and PFOA are present on, or in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Amberley.

Preliminary sampling was limited to selected bores and open water courses in the vicinity of the base.

Approximately 10 samples of bore water and surface water were taken from near the base. All samples were collected by qualified contractors engaged by Defence.

A final report detailing the outcomes of the preliminary sampling will be made available to Defence in late July 2016. Defence will provide individual results to landholders whose bores were sampled and to the Queensland Environment Protection Authority.

Community consultation will occur once the results of preliminary sampling are known. Subject to what is found, a detailed site investigation may follow.

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) containing PFOS and PFOA was used extensively worldwide and within Australia by both civilian and military authorities due to its effectiveness in extinguishing liquid fuel fires.

Defence continues to be proactive in initiating a program of investigations to identify the extent and levels of PFOS and PFOA on, and in the vicinity of, some bases. Defence is being open and transparent in making the verified sampling results available to State/Territory and local authorities, as well as relevant property owners.

Environmental testing takes time and it is important that we work with the community while we investigate the possible extent of PFOS and PFOA.

Defence has established a national website to facilitate access to information regarding its PFOS and PFOA investigation program: <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Default.asp>.