



## New Mexico Cannon AFB

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### ***Facility and Location***

Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) lies in the high plains of eastern New Mexico, near the Texas Panhandle. The base is six miles west of Clovis and 4,295 feet above sea level. During World War II, Cannon AFB housed the 16th Bombardment Wing, a training unit for B-17, B-24, and B-29 heavy bombers. The base was deactivated in 1947. In 1951, it was reassigned to the Tactical Air Command and reactivated as Clovis AFB, operating P-51s and F-86s. It was renamed Cannon AFB in 1957 and is currently home of the 27th Special Operations Wing. The missions of the 27th Special Operations Wing include infiltration, exfiltration, and re-supply and air refueling of special operations rotary wing and tilt rotor aircraft; and precision fire support.

### ***Media Sampled and Findings***

**Drinking Water** — In 2011, three of three samples detected perchlorate from 3.7 to 9.3 ppb. In 2010, four of four samples detected perchlorate from 1.7 to 4.5 ppb. In 2009, three of three samples detected perchlorate from 2 to 4.2 ppb. In 2008, one sample detected perchlorate at 2 ppb. In 2007, 19 of 19 samples detected perchlorate from 1.9 to 32 ppb. Prior to 2007, 24 of 69 samples detected perchlorate from 1.7 to 46 ppb. The high detect was found in a sample taken following chlorination of the drinking water supply. Subsequent sampling detected perchlorate from non-detect to 5.7 ppb.

**Soil** — Prior to 2007, one soil sample detected perchlorate at 25 ppb. Nine soil samples from dried sludge in the north and south sewage lagoons detected perchlorate from 40 ppb to 571 ppb.

**Surface Water** — Prior to 2007, one sample detected perchlorate at 25 ppb. Four samples in 2001 were below 24 ppb.

### ***Appropriate Actions***

In 2011, samples yielded results below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb, and pre-2007 soil concentrations were not found above the EPA Region VI soil screening levels of 55,000 ppb residential and 720,000 ppb industrial. In response to previous detections, Cannon AFB developed and implemented a Perchlorate Action Plan to address perchlorate levels. Sampling will occur at three entry points each year in accordance with the Perchlorate Action Plan (as amended in August 2008).

Melrose AFR is an operational range at Cannon AFB where perchlorate concentrations were of concern. However, this is an active range and the only people in the vicinity of the potable water supply well are contractors and military personnel. Cannon AFB instituted a policy that restricts individuals on Melrose AFR from consuming water from Well 11. A Drinking Water Advisory was disseminated to all organizations working on Melrose AFR.