



## South Carolina MCAS Beaufort

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

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort is located approximately 70 miles south of Charleston and is home to Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG 31) and other Fleet Marine Force units, including the Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, a detachment from Marine Air Control Squadron 2, and Combat Logistics Company 23. As one of the nation's largest aircraft groups, MAG 31 includes approximately 4,200 Marines and sailors. MCAS Beaufort covers 6,900 acres within Beaufort County and controls an additional 5,200 acres at the Townsend Bombing Range in Macintosh County, Georgia. The Georgia Air National Guard manages the range and provides pilots with the opportunity to train for air-to-ground combat. MCAS Beaufort is also associated with a large air-to-air combat area off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia as well as the family housing complex of Laurel Bay, located just three miles from the station. Commissioned Naval Air Station Beaufort in 1943, the station was home base for advanced training and operation of anti-submarine patrols along the southeastern seaboard during World War II. Deactivated in 1946, the station was reactivated as Marine Corps Auxiliary Airfield in 1956 and redesignated MCAS Beaufort in 1960. The main portion of MCAS Beaufort remains Merritt Field, a 3.9 million square yard area of runways and taxiways, which has played a key role in national and worldwide training exercises and operations.

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

**Drinking Water** — In 2008, four samples reported no detection. In 2007, two of three samples detected perchlorate at 0.13 ppb. Prior to 2007, two of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.17 ppb.

**Groundwater** — In 2011, 3 of 12 samples detected perchlorate from 0.19 to 0.48 ppb. In 2010, 3 of 22 samples detected perchlorate from 0.08 to 0.24 ppb. In 2009, 12 of 39 samples detected perchlorate from 0.04 to 0.41 ppb. In 2008, 5 of 16 samples detected perchlorate from 0.07 to 0.38 ppb. In 2007, 20 samples reported no detection. Prior to 2007, 9 of 25 samples detected perchlorate from 1.08 to 18.2 ppb.

**Surface Water** — In 2011, three samples reported no detection. In 2010, five of eight samples detected perchlorate from 0.01 to 0.21 ppb. In 2009, two samples reported no detection. In 2008, two samples reported no detection. In 2007, two samples reported no detection. Prior to 2007, one of four samples detected perchlorate at 1.39 ppb.

### ***Appropriate Action***

Current samples are below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. To address perchlorate concentrations indicated in prior sampling, MCAS Beaufort's EOD range is currently undergoing monitoring of surface and groundwater. Samples are taken as part of a RCRA Subpart X Permit.