

## ***Doha Water Consumption***

As you know, the 379th EMDG is trying to become more proactive in sending information to you related to your overall general health and to make you more aware of issues in Doha that may be different from other places you have resided recently.

379 EMDG Bioenvironmental Engineering, part of our preventive medicine service, has been researching local tap and bottled water services. While many of you have lived here for an extended period of time, we want you to have information for the transitioning of incoming personnel. We recommend that you use approved bottled water for all cooking, drinking, making baby formula, tooth-brushing, and other scenarios that involve the consumption of water.

### **Why bottled water?**

Before bottled water can be approved for consumption by the Department of Defense, preventive medicine experts perform an extensive survey of each bottling facility to ensure that the processes from source water collection to final bottling meet strict treatment, sanitation, and security requirements.

### **The following bottled water companies in Qatar have been approved for consumption by the DoD (DoD Approved Sources):**

Rayyan Water (available for free from base)  
Dana Water  
Oasis Pure Water  
Aqua Gulf Water  
Gulfa Water  
Emirates Pure Spring Water  
Jeema Water  
Ghadeer Mineral Water  
Waters bearing the trademark Pepsi  
Waters bearing the trademark Coca-Cola  
Waters bearing the trademark Nestle Pure Life

### **Tap Water Quality**

The tap water in your homes has been shown to meet drinking quality standards as recently as June 2014, however the collection point nor the overall water system have been extensively screened by the DoD. Ultimately, the water distribution system that feeds your tap water falls out of the DoD's control, so quality and water security cannot be consistently verified nor does CENTCOM or US Army Public Health Command have a track record regarding the system. Therefore, as a precautionary security measure, we recommend that bottled water from the above list remain your primary source of drinking water.

### **Boiling Tap Water**

Therefore, boiling water for food still carries a risk, albeit a smaller one than regular consumption. The most likely water contaminant is bacteriological, which is eliminated by boiling. However, should a chemical contaminant enter the system, boiling would do nothing to prevent exposure. The chemical contaminant would occur from either leaching into the system or being intentionally placed there. Ultimately, the risk is low enough with boiling that each family can determine how risk-averse or risk-accepting they want to be.

**Other Bottled Water Companies**

Unless a DoD contract was to be established with a bottling company, DoD Preventive Medicine entities do not have authority to perform an assessment on a new bottling plant. Ultimately, the safe bet is always to go with that which has already been surveyed by DoD personnel - the approved brands listed above. However, individuals are free to procure water from reputable brands (major or international companies) not on the approved source list at their own risk. There are several other water bottle companies in Doha, to include SAFA Pure Drinking Water, that have been utilized for some time now without incident; these companies present a low health risk.

If you have any questions, please call DSN 437-8799/8746 (off-base extension: 4458-9555) to speak with the Bioenvironmental Engineers.