

# SEABEE COURIER

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## Navy to test water at NCBC youth facilities

**By Ryan Labadens**  
NCBC Public Affairs

Later this month, water sampling and testing for lead will be conducted at the Child Development Center, Youth Activities Center and Teen Center on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. While there are no known lead issues in the NCBC drinking water system, the samples will determine lead content in accordance with EPA guidelines for childcare facilities. These preventive measures are conducted every five years Navy-wide to ensure children using youth programs and childcare facilities are safeguarded from the effects that lead in drinking water can have.

"The safety of our children is extremely important to all of us at NCBC, so we want to make absolutely sure that we are not only meeting the regulatory requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but exceeding them," said Cmdr. Ron Jenkins, NCBC Gulfport executive officer.

The EPA recommends regular testing for lead in drinking water in schools and day care centers. Testing will be conducted at locations where students and staff get water for drinking

and cooking.

"Children are much more vulnerable to the effects of lead in drinking water, so I believe we owe it both them and their parents to do what we can to make sure their water is safe to drink," said Jenkins.

Results of the tests should be available and released on the NCBC Gulfport Facebook page and in the Seabee Courier within four to six weeks after water samples are examined.

"We want to make sure that everyone at NCBC has access to any information we can provide them throughout this process of making sure our water is safe for our children at these facilities," said Jenkins.

People with any immediate health concerns about lead can contact the Naval Branch Health Clinic at 228-871-4033.

For more information, refer to the following links below. Further inquiries about the water sampling and testing to be conducted at NCBC can be directed to the Public Affairs Office at 228-871-3662.

Environmental Protection Agency:  
[https://www.epa.gov/node/116045\\_](https://www.epa.gov/node/116045_)

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center:  
<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/environmental-programs/Pages/Lead-in-Drinking-Water.aspx>

Navy Region Southeast:  
[https://cnmc.navy.mil/om/base\\_support/environmental/water\\_quality/lead\\_in\\_priority\\_area\\_sampling\\_program.html](https://cnmc.navy.mil/om/base_support/environmental/water_quality/lead_in_priority_area_sampling_program.html)

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-- Cmdr. Ron Jenkins, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport executive officer

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**U.S. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 practice airfield damage repair at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Mississippi, June 7, 2018. Seabees deploy to numerous locations throughout the world to build and maintain structures and facilities in support of various U.S. military operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens/ Released)**



**Public Works Department personnel change out the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center command sign at the Pass Road entrance to Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Mississippi, June 6, 2018. The command officially changed their name to Information Warfare Training Group Gulfport. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Rosalie Chang/ Released)**

# DLA Distribution Gulfport supplies, delivers locally, globally

By Ryan Labadens  
NCBC Public Affairs

Supplying the nation's military with the items and equipment they need to perform their mission is a large undertaking, but it's an undertaking that the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution agency – and especially the DLA Distribution center in Gulfport, Mississippi – continually strives to support.

"Our main goal is to maintain on-hand stock or items that our customers require on a recurring basis and to expedite materials worldwide for our customers as they're deployed," said Tom Murphree, DLA Distribution Gulfport director.

DLA Distribution serves as the Defense Logistics Agency's lead provider of global distribution support for America's military. Murphree cited the U.S. Navy Seabees at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport as a local example.

"The Seabees have multiple construction missions worldwide, but when they need specialty items related to a specific mission, we'll ship it out for them," said Murphree.

He listed a few other examples for which DLA Distribution Gulfport provides storage and distribution services. "We also support the Mississippi National Guard up at Camp Shelby, we support the National Guard Aviation Group over at the Gulfport airport, and we just began a relationship with SUPSHIP Gulf Coast, which covers Ingalls shipyards (in Pascagoula, Mississippi) and Austal shipyards in Mobile," just to name a

few.

Many of the services DLA Distribution provides include receiving, storing and issuing supplies, as well as providing other services to increase military readiness as requested. It delivers a wide variety of services, such as storage, distribution, customized kits and specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development.

"When it comes down to it, we actually serve two main functions," said Wade Winters, DLA Distribution Gulfport operations officer. "Receipt and storage of different shipments, and receipt and distribution of shipments to customers both locally and globally."

One thing DLA Distribution strives to provide its military customers in theater is agile and flexible supply distribution. In addition to supporting various military exercises across the globe, DLA Distribution also receives and distributes supplies and equipment to support various humanitarian assistance missions, such as the Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

In fiscal year 2017, DLA Distribution processed more than 14 million receipts, or service requests, and supported the global supply needs of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force, in addition to other agencies.

Worldwide, the agency employs more than 10,000 people who work to provide timely distribution services to customers around the globe. NCBC Gulfport itself



**Mark Reich, DLA Gulfport wood worker, blocker and bracer, assembles a box for storing and shipping helicopter blades for U.S. military aircraft. DLA Distribution serves as the Defense Logistics Agency's lead provider of global distribution support for the U.S. military.** (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens/ Released)

employs 27 fulltime DLA Distribution workers, said Winters, many of whom are former military and are originally from the local area and the Gulf Coast region.

Murphree noted that having many former military members working here gives them a sense of ownership in what they do to provide storage, supply and distribution capabilities for the warfighter.

"We take great pride in the fact that, even though we're no longer serving in the military, we can still keep serving our country in this way and help supply our military with what they need to do their job," said Murphree.

**Joe Brock, DLA Distribution Gulfport wood worker, blocker and bracer, cuts through a slotted angle used to build boxes for storing and shipping propellers for C-130 military cargo aircraft. Brock is a retired U.S. military member who served with the Navy Seabees for 20 years. DLA Distribution serves as the Defense Logistics Agency's lead provider of global distribution support for America's military.** (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens/ Released)



**Seabee Courier**  
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