FACT SHEET
Wastewater Sterilization

Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider Street August 26, 2014
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000

What is it: A system that sterilizes laboratory wastewater at Fort Detrick

What is the background: Fort Detrick has multiple layers of sterilization and protection of laboratory wastewater from the installation to ensure the safety of the community.

Fort Detrick hosts specialized laboratories that are designed to maximize the protection of scientists while conducting research to protect our nation. These labs are designed with redundant systems to ensure uninterrupted power, engineered controls including negative airflow, and sterilized waste streams that prevent exposure to employees and the community.

Laboratory research wastewater is treated by multiple processes prior to leaving the laboratories. Laboratory wastewater is sterilized using chemical and thermal treatment methodologies prior to being introduced into the domestic sanitary waste stream. Chemical sterilization is conducted at the initial disposal location within the laboratories. The waste then flows to the laboratories steam sterilization facility for thermal sterilization. This redundant process ensures the safety of the community and environment. The sterilized wastewater is mixed with domestic sanitary wastewater for final treatment at the Fort Detrick Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Why is it important to the Community:
Fort Detrick is rated in the top 1 percent in safety in the nation and has received a number of environmental and safety awards.

Fort Detrick follows and is inspected regularly by the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, OSHA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health to ensure maximum protection for Soldiers, Families, and Civilians within our community.

More information on how Fort Detrick remains a steward of the environment visit http://www.detrick.army.mil/responsible, or contact the Garrison Public Affairs Office at (301) 619-2018