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MCAS Iwakuni, Japan –The Aquatics section of MCCS Semper Fit has closed all station pools until a certified Aquatics Engineer can verify compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. This act applies to all public pools to include pools on military installations overseas. While station pools are up to code with anti-entrapment portion of the law, the requirements for the pool drains are very specific and present a particular challenge for pools not built with U.S. schematics.

Drains must be anti-entrapment (finger, hair, body and limb) and have ASME/ANSI compliant drain covers installed. MCAS Iwakuni drain covers were manufactured in Japan; therefore in order to become compliant with this federal law, will have to have covers fabricated to meet these specific measurements.

MCCS Aquatics and Design along with Station Safety and Facilities Engineers have been making every effort to become compliant, but since this law affects every public pool in the United States, in addition to those overseas, the demand is great. Currently, all options are being explored.

For more detailed information on the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, please visit www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/vgb/poolspa.aspx.