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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "DIOXIN BURN WAS COSTLY NECESSITY" NCBC GULFPORT MS
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Dioxin burn was costly necessity

The successful completion of a year-long effort to remove the toxic compound dioxin from some 26,000 tons of soil at the U.S. Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport is an occasion for cheers and considerable relief.

Relief because a health threat, caused by leakage from about 15,000 barrels of the defoliant Agent Orange stored at the base for almost a decade, has been removed.

Cheers because the Air Force, which had the responsibility for the chemical used during the Vietnam War, proved a moveable incinerator can be used to decontaminate soil as an alternative to trucking it to stationary ovens.

The operation was costly, \$20 million, but probably less so than the expense that would be involved in trucking soil to a fixed-base incinerator. In the process, the previously untried technique of using a moveable incinerator has been proven reliable.

It would have been better, of course, if the problems of exposure to and disposal of Agent Orange had been faced at the time use of the potent chemical in Vietnam was authorized.

Mark this one down to learning from our mistakes.