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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER FROM U S AIR FORCE REGARDING HANDLING AND STORAGE OF ORANGE
HERBICIDE NCBC GULFPORT MS
7/26/1972
U S AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SAN ANTONIO AIR MATERIEL AREA (AFMC)
KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS 78241



28 JUL 1972

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CV

SUBJECT: *Handling, Herbicide Orange at Gulfport, Mississippi*

TO: *Maj Gen Wesley C. Franklin, USA
Deputy Commanding General
Reserve Forces, Southern Area
Ft Sam Houston TX 78234*

1. *Reference is made to your letter to the Honorable Patrick T. Caffery, dated 18 Jul 1972, concerning the rewarehousing of Orange herbicide stored at a Naval facility at Gulfport, Mississippi by Army Reserve personnel.*

2. *Orange herbicide was processed through the Gulfport facility to SEA from about July 1968 to September 1969. No shipments have been made since that time. However, routine drum maintenance has been performed by personnel at Gulfport on a continuing basis as needed to control drum corrosion, leaking bungs, and some minor re-drumming due to physically damaged drums. The current rewarehousing effort is the first significant movement of the 15,000 drums stored there.*

3. *DIOXIN does not form in the drums; rather, it is formed during the manufacture of trichlorophenol as a preliminary step in the formation of 2,4,5-T butyl ester, which comprises 50% of the Orange formulation. The amount of DIOXIN formed varied between manufacturers, since production conditions were different. Our tests on samples taken from the various manufacturers' material at Gulfport revealed that the DIOXIN content ranged from less than 0.1 to 14.0 parts per million in the drummed Orange herbicide.*

4. *The handling and disposal of this herbicide is a sensitive issue, and we felt it important to present information on the material in a consistent context.*

5. *We hope the data presented above will be useful in resolving any future inquiries on this subject.*

SIGNED

JAMES G. RANDOLPH, Brigadier General, USAF
Vice Commander



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OF RECEIPT- 19401512