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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER REGARDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR HERBICIDE ORANGE INCINERATION AT SEA NCBC GULFPORT MS
4/22/1977
U S AIR FORCE

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ZNR UUUUU
P 222220Z APR 77
FM OSAF WASH DC/SAF/OIP
TO RUWAAAA/HQ AFLC WPAFB OH/OI
INFO RUWVAAA/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI/OIP
RUWVAAA/15ABW HICKAM AFB HI/OI
RUCLBIA/NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
GULFPORT MS/PA
RULPMIQ/24COMPW HOWARD AFB CZ/OI
RULPAFA/USAFSOAD ALBROOK AFB CZ/CI
RUEBDSA/DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY WASH DC/OI
RUCLERA/KITC KEESLER AFB MS/OI
RUWNSSS/USAF LOS ANGELES OFC OF INFO 11000 WILSHIRE
BLVD RM 10114 LOS ANGELES CA
RUEDDOA/USAF NEW YORK OFC OF INFO 663 5TH AVE RM
340 NEW YORK NY
RUCIANA/USAF CHICAGO OFC OF INFO 219 SO DEARBORN ST
RM 246 CHICAGO IL
RUEKJCS/OASD WASH DC/PA
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SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE--HERBICIDE ORANGE INCINERATION
1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY OASD/PA AFTER 1530 HRS EST ON 26 APRIL 1977. ACTION IS FOR AFLC/OI, NCEC/PA, AND PACAF/OI. OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR INFORMATION AND ANSWER TO QUERY.
2. THE RELEASE READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE.
THE AIR FORCE HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR THE DISPOSAL OF HERBICIDE ORANGE BY INCINERATION AT SEA.
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GRANTED A PERMIT FOR OCEAN INCINERATION OF THE HERBICIDE. THE PERMIT WAS GRANTED BASED ON AIR FORCE STUDIES AND PLANS CALLING FOR OCEAN INCINERATION, PRESENTED AT EPA PUBLIC HEARINGS IN HAWAII AND SAN FRANCISCO IN 1975 AND IN WASHINGTON DC IN APRIL 1977.
AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION BY THE EPA, THE AIR FORCE WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE BEGIN REMOVAL OF HERBICIDE ORANGE FROM THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER (NCBC), GULFPORT, MS, TO A SPECIALLY DESIGNED INCINERATOR SHIP. THE SHIP WILL STEAM TO A DESIGNATED BURN AREA IN THE MID-PACIFIC WHERE THE HERBICIDE ORANGE WILL BE DESTROYED BY HIGH-TEMPERATURE INCINERATION. UNDER THE PERMIT, THE INCINERATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE

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MANNER WITH STRICT MONITORING OF THE HERBICIDE DISPOSAL.
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL "BURN" IS EXPECTED TO LEAD TO INCINERATION AT SEA OF THE REMAINDER OF THE HERBICIDE ORANGE STORED ON JOHNSTON ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC. UNQUOTE.
3. SAFOIPA ACTION OFFICER IS CAPT GARY HAWKSWORTH, AV 227-5175.
AFLC/OIP ACTION OFFICER IS MARVIN WILSON, AV 787-6533.
BT
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