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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "CREWS BEGIN TRANSFERRING HERBICIDE" NCBC GULFPORT  
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# Crews begin transferring herbicide

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Air Force crews have started the delicate process of transferring 850,000 gallons of a toxic Vietnam-era defoliant from a Navy Seabee base to an incinerator ship.

The defoliant, known as Herbicide Orange, has been stored in 55 gallon drums at the base since 1969 and will be burned later this summer at a remote site in the Pacific Ocean.

Herbicide Orange was used to clear jungle trails of vegetation in Vietnam until 1970, when authorities said it contained chemicals which could cause birth defects. The Air Force first considered removing the toxic chemicals from the herbicide and allowing it to be sold commercially for farm use. But officials were

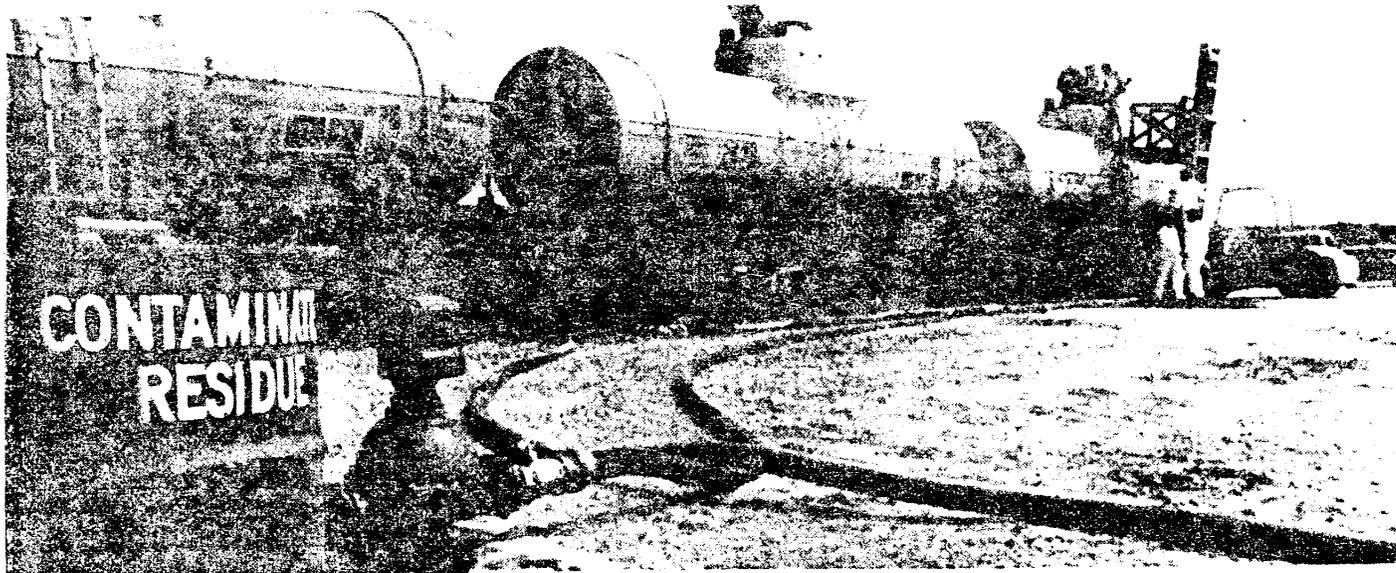
dissatisfied with test results of the detoxification, and last month the Environmental Protection Agency approved the at sea burning.

The Dutch incinerator ship *Volcanus* arrived at the Port of Gulfport Monday and Air Force experts began

emptying the drums Tuesday, pumping the chemical into railroad tank cars for the trip to the port.

A spokesman said the operation, code-named "Pacer Ho," would mix the chemical with diesel fuel in the cars at the rate of about 55,000 gallons a day.

Gulfport, Miss.



## Defoliant removal

The U.S. Air Force Tuesday started the first phase of the removal of more than 850,000 gallons of toxic Herbicide Orange from the Seabee Center in Gulfport. (Mississippi Press AP Laserphoto)