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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "HERBICIDE ORANGE STOCKS ALL DESTROYED" NCBC GULFPORT MS
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Herbicide Orange stocks all destroyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force announced Wednesday it has destroyed its entire stock of 2.3 million gallons of Herbicide Orange.

The herbicide drew controversy in the late 1960s because of its use in Vietnam to destroy jungle cover for enemy forces and its eventual link to birth defects. It was banned in 1970.

The incineration of the herbicide defoliant was conducted under permits issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The program cost about $5 million.

The burn took place in an EPA-designated Pacific area approximately 120 miles from Johnston Island and 1,000 miles west of Hawaii.

The Air Force said the disposal operation met or exceeded all EPA requirements.

Some 860,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange, which had been stored at the Naval Construction Battalion Center at Gulfport, Miss., were earlier incinerated under a research permit issued by EPA last April 25. The research burn was completed on July 24.

On Aug. 4, EPA held an open public technical meeting to review the results of the research burn and issued a special permit for the incineration of all Herbicide Orange stocks stored on Johnston Island.

The approximately 1.4 million gallons of Herbicide Orange stored at Johnston Island were destroyed in two burns completed on Aug. 16 and Sept. 3, the Air Force said.