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LETTER FROM U S NAVY REGARDING BRIEFING ON SURVEILLANCE ON HERBICIDE
ORANGE TEST SITE NCBC GULFPORT MS
7/9/1979
U S NAVY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501

IN REPLY REFER TO:
9 July 1979

MEMO FOR RECORD

Subj: Briefing on Surveillance on Herbicide Orange Test Site

1. A briefing on subject was given to key members of CBC Command by USAF representatives on 14 June 1979. Present were:

Captain McHugh	CO
CDR Miller	XO
LCDR Palomaki	APWO
Major Young	USAF
Captain Livingston	USAF
Mr. Breland	430
Mr. Anderson	12.1
Ms. Devine	15

2. The following summarizes the major points brought out at the briefing.

a. Air Force can see no significant degradation of the dioxin level on the site.

b. AF has seen a breakdown of much of the herbicide.

c. We're going to have to continue to monitor the level of dioxin in the soil, since there is not enough historical data available to tell us where we stand on the life of the dioxin, and when we're going to see any significant breakdown.

d. The little background they have at Eglin AFB really doesn't give enough of a data base to predict exactly when we can expect to see dioxin breakdown.

e. There has been some concern about the heavy rains we've had this year in that some of the dioxins and the herbicides may have been washed from the site into the drainage systems leading off base. The AF is testing biological samples and expects no problems.

f. There may be a problem, however, in that some dioxins have been found off base. (This would be a problem only if they are identified as being the same dioxins as were found in the herbicides, and further identified as being in the levels of parts per trillion. Although the AF doesn't think now that there is a problem, it could be interpreted by environmentalists as being a problem even if the relatively common types of dioxins (not contained in H.O.) are found. These dioxins are routinely emitted into the atmosphere by some local industries, wood treating for one.)

g. The Air Force, like everybody else, is facing resource reductions. There is a question as to whether they're going to be able to continue the monitoring program.

h. The AF is going to be publishing the monitor program results soon; as we get the results CBC will pass them on up the line. There's little capability to interpret the results here (or in most other places) because of the very technical nature of the report.

i. If the AF terminates the monitoring program, the Navy would have to assume it because there will be a potential problem here for years to come, and it will have to be watched closely.

j. At this time, the AF is unable to give us a projection on when we're going to be able to use that property.

k. The AF will provide soils that are very similar to what is found at CBC and will also provide orange herbicides to Navy or other organizations to do de-contamination studies in the lab or outside. Some academic institutions are being approached on this.

l. If personnel are found with adverse health effects, the Air Force will be forced to look at all the handlers of Herbicide Orange - at Eglin and CBC Gulfport. No problems have been noted to date.

m. The Air Force will provide briefings to Washington level commands as appropriate.