

N62604.AR.000125  
NCBC GULFPORT  
5090.3a

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "HERBICIDE ORANGE HEALTH STUDY BEGUN" NCBC GULFPORT  
MS  
8/8/1979  
SEABEE COURIER

*Seabee Courier*

*9/5/79*

## Herbicide Orange health study begun

A six-year health study of "Operation Ranch Hand" aircrews who sprayed Herbicide Orange defoliates during 1962-1971 in Vietnam will be conducted by the Air Force, beginning in October 1979.

While there is no valid scientific data currently linking Herbicide Orange to long-term health effects, the Air Force study is aimed at determining if any casual relationship between the herbicide exposure and subsequent health changes can be established.

Both government and civilian scientists will be used to preclude any organization bias in the study which will involve some 1,200 exposed active duty personnel and veterans who will be surveyed and matched against a control group of 1,800 non-exposed individuals.

Telephone health surveys will begin in October 1979, with follow-up surveys and medical examinations continuing for at least the next six years to insure coverage of possible long-term health effects.