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NEWS RELEASE "AIR FORCE DIOXIN RESEARCH PROVES EFFECTIVE AT NCBC" NCBC
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SEABEE NEWS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Miss 39501



OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air Force officials from Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Fla., will hold a public information meeting on Monday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m., at Westside Community Center, Hwy. 90, in Gulfport. The subject of the meeting will be the herbicide orange incinerator research project currently underway at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Miss.



United States Air Force

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News Release

AIR FORCE DIOXIN RESEARCH

PROVES EFFECTIVE AT NCBC

HQ AFESC, TYNDALL AFB, Fla. -- The Air Force Engineering and Services Center's herbicide orange incineration research project at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Miss., has reached another significant milestone.

Laboratory test results from the December, 1986 full-scale test burn were more than successful. Test results show the incineration method was able to remove dioxin from soil at the former Vietnam-era defoliant storage site so completely it could not be detected.

Current acceptable Air Force and EPA levels for this type of treatment system are removal of dioxin to one part per billion, or less. The rotary kiln incineration method removed dioxin from the soil to less than one part per trillion, one thousand times less than levels considered safe.

Air samples collected from the area also showed no detectable amounts of dioxin.

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AF DIOXIN RESEARCH 2-2-2

The air samples and laboratory results reaffirm the operational efficiency and environmental safety of the incineration equipment being tested at NCBC by scientists from the AFESC laboratory here.

A second test burn must be conducted this spring to further confirm the system's validity prior to placing the unit into routine, full-scale operation. That test is tentatively scheduled for late April or early May.

The Air Force stored herbicide orange at the Navy base in the 70's. Nearly one million gallons of the contaminated liquid were safely incinerated aboard the incineration ship Vulcanus in 1977. However, small spills, most measuring less than six inches in diameter, occurred from leakage during storage or while moving the drums and pumping the chemical into large tanks for transportation to the ship.

The Air Force has continuously monitored and sampled the area, as well as nearby Turkey Creek, in addition to their research and development efforts to find a safe, efficient and cost-effective removal method. Sampling still has revealed no health threat to nearby communities or wildlife.

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AF DIOXIN RESEARCH 3-3-3

The AFESC laboratory is responsible for the Air Force's Environmental Quality Research and Development Program. They develop methods and techniques to detect and abate the impact of pollutants which have, or may, result from the deployment of Air Force systems.