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**Report/Article Title** Environmental Briefing, Eglin AFB, FL, Test Area C52A and Grid 1 with attached memorandums from Carlos Stern, Deputy for Environment and Safety, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Air Force regarding Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation, dated August 7&8, 1980, dated March 27, 1981

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 1981

**Month/Day** March 27

**Color**



**Number of Images** 5

**Description Notes**

ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING - EGLIN AFB FL  
TEST AREA C52A AND GRID I

27 MARCH 1981

BACKGROUND

1. The average calculated level of TCDD present in the Herbicide Purple sprayed on Grid I is 32.8 ppm.
2. The calculated level of TCDD in the soil on Grid I in 1964 was 49,000 ppt, or 49 ppb.
3. Fourteen (14) years later in 1978, the average estimated level of contamination on Grid I was 300 ppt, or .3 ppb.
4. These calculations suggest that there has been an approximate reduction of TCDD on Grid I of 99% in 14 years.
5. The worst-case estimate of TCDD contamination on TA-C52A is 8 lbs total. Actual calculations, based on a recent review of historical documents, suggest that the total was probably closer to 5.6 lbs.
6. There are no known literature citations dealing with the degradation products of TCDD in soil or animals. This was confirmed again by Major Alvin Alvin L. Young on 26 Mar 1981.
7. The only known degradation products of TCDD are those resulting from the well-documented work dealing with TCDD photolytic (i.e., ultraviolet light) processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING, EGLIN AFB FL  
27 March 1981

TEST AREA C-52A AND GRID I

Anticipated Questions

1. Are there currently any hazards to human health on TA-C52A and/or Grid I?

Answer: No. Current TCDD levels are below the "Threshold Level" of effects seen in laboratory rodents. Humans appear to be more resistant than lower animals to the toxic effects of TCDD.

2. Can the two areas, TA-C52A and Grid I, be used for required mission support?

Answer: Yes. The only restrictions deal with activities that tend to disrupt existing vegetation and, hence, would increase the chance of wind and water erosion, and movement of TCDD-contaminated soil into nearby streams.

3. What is the real environmental concern for TA-C52A and Grid I?

Answer: Movement of TCDD-contaminated soil into Choctowhatchee Bay, and subsequent, possible contamination of fish and shellfish.

4. Is there a real danger of contaminating the Bay?

Answer: No. However, because of the intense public concern and press coverage of issues dealing with Herbicide Orange and TCDD, it is scientifically and politically prudent to demonstrate, in a positive manner, that the Air Force is also concerned.

5. Should further studies be initiated?

Answer: Yes. To demonstrate positive action and public concern, the Air Force should initiate a limited soil-testing program.

6. Who would conduct these studies?

Answer: The studies should be planned and managed by the AFESC, Tyndall AFB, Florida. SAF/MIQ designated on 7 Aug 80 the AFESC as the lead laboratory for herbicide orange follow-up studies at both Gulfport and Johnston Island (Atch 1). On 8 Aug 80, SAF/MIQ tasked AFESC to develop a sampling protocol for Hardstand 7 (Atch 2). While TA-C52A was not specifically mentioned in the tasking letters, it is logical that AFESC would be responsible for monitoring C52A as well as the other specifically designated areas.

The USAF OEHL is prepared to provide technical expertise and consultation to AFESC, when requested.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 7, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/LEE

SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation

During the period November-December 1979, briefings indicating that erosion was moving contaminated soil from the Gulfport site to areas off-base were presented to SAF/MI and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (MRA&L). The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force directed that immediate measures be taken to preclude further erosion and stressed the requirement for early development of a protocol for research to determine methods for returning the storage area to full and beneficial use. In addition to the Gulfport site, contaminated sites of Eglin AFB and Johnston Island were to be addressed.

On June 30, 1980, following staff coordination, AF/SG forwarded the research protocol developed by Air Force Systems Command. The protocol envisions a four-year program with an estimated financial requirement of \$985,000. These funds are not presently programmed in the USAF R&D budget. The protocol outlines a broad-based program (six tasks) of research and recommends that the Environics Branch, Engineering and Services Laboratory, HQ AFESC, be designated the responsible lead laboratory for this effort.

While the entire series of tasks outlined have not been fully evaluated by SAF/MI and SAF/MIQ, the Air Force has made public commitments to determine the efficiency of interim control measures taken at Gulfport and to continue sampling at both the Gulfport and Johnston Island sites. It is therefore prudent, considering climatic/seasonal variations, that additional sampling be conducted expeditiously (appropriate samples identified in Tasks 3 and 4, attached protocol).

I concur with the recommendation that AFESC be designated the lead laboratory and request they arrange for sample collection (and preservation for subsequent analysis) at both the Gulfport and Johnston Island sites before October 1, 1980. I am aware that AFESC has not had an opportunity to budget for this FY 80 effort. I am therefore, by copy of this letter,

ATCH 1

requesting that the USAF OEHL transfer \$6,000 of FY 80 funds identified for Herbicide Orange efforts to AFESC to cover FY 80 sample collection and preservation expenses. In like manner, funds currently in the USAF OEHL FY 81 budget for Herbicide Orange work in the amount of \$36,000 will also be transferred to AFESC as initial funding for analysis of previously collected and preserved samples and subsequent year sampling/analysis contracts.

Our evaluation of the remaining tasks outlined in the proposed protocol is continuing. I will keep you advised of our decisions regarding these site restoration efforts.



CARLOS STERN, Ph.D.  
Deputy for  
Environment & Safety

Attachment

cc: SAF/MII/MID  
AF/RD  
AF/SGES  
AFCS/SGB  
AMD/SG  
USAF OEHL/CC

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 8, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/LEE

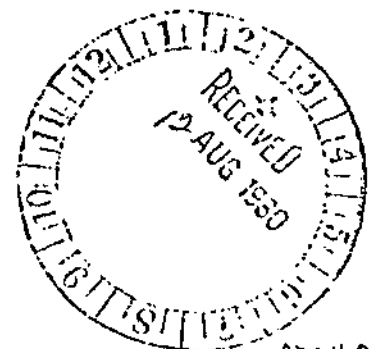
SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange Site Reclamation

In my letter of August 7, 1980 concerning the Gulfport and Johnston Island Herbicide Orange storage sites, monitoring of the Hardstand 7 area at Eglin AFB, Florida, was not included, but it was not overlooked. It was not included because previous sampling at this site has not been in accordance with a well-defined sampling strategy as has been the case at Gulfport and Johnston Island. In addition, and since the sampling at Gulfport and Johnston Island was to be completed before October 1, 1980, it was believed unreasonable to require that a sampling protocol be developed and that sampling be completed at the Eglin AFB site before October 1, 1980.

Request that a sampling protocol for the Eglin AFB Hardstand 7 area be developed and that this site be included in the FY 81 sampling schedule indicated in my earlier letter.

CARLOS STERN, Ph.D.  
Deputy for  
Environment & Safety

cc: SAF/MID/MII  
AF/RD  
AF/SGES  
AFCS/SGB  
AMD/SG  
USAF OEHL/CC



ATCH 2