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TRIP REPORT
IND.GEN-5050/1 (12-65) S/N 0190-LF-029-5100

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This is your official report to the office which assigned you the trip. You are requested to provide answers to the questions listed below within 5 working days of your return. Be specific and concise. Be candid in reporting observations, problems, recommendations.

- a. Did you make commitments - personal, unofficial, or official?
- b. Were classified subjects discussed? If so, what? Classify this report, if necessary.

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| TRAVELER (Name, Title, Grade, Code) Wallace Eakes, Chemist, GS-12, 112N | INCLUSIVE DATES OF TRAVEL 31 Jan - 3 Feb 1983 |
| OTHER TRAVELERS (If report includes all information) None | PURPOSE OF VISIT Investigate report of nerve gas burial at Camp Lejeune, NC, and include information in NACIP IAS |

| PLACES VISITED | DATES | PERSONS CONTACTED (Name and Position) |
|-------------------|------------|---|
| Marine Corps Base | 31 Jan - | COL Marshall, Asst COS, Facilities, USMC |
| Camp Lejeune, NC | 3 Feb 1983 | Mr. Bob Alexander, Environmental Engineer |
| | | Mr. Julian Wooten, Natural Resources, and |
| | | Mr. Danny Sharp, Environmental Affairs Div. |
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SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (Observations, Problems, Recommendations, Commitments, etc.)

The Nerve Gas Question.

After interviewing five retired maintenance heavy equipment operators and supervisors not interviewed during our original on-site IAS, three sites were indicated where gas was buried. The operators interviewed have been retired for about ten years on average, but started work at the Base during the time it was built.

Facts about dumping from heavy equipment operators.

- o 55-gallon drums were dumped, along with 5-gallon pails.
- o The drums were painted green, or grey, or blue.
- o The Marines who dumped the drums referred to the containers as "gas."
- o The Marines who dumped the "gas" sometimes wore gas masks and protective clothes and sometimes did not.

(Use continuation sheets if necessary)

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER <i>Wallace Eakes</i> | DATE <i>8 Feb 83</i> |
| COPY TO: | |

| TRAVELER | PLACE VISITED |
|---------------|------------------|
| Wallace Eakes | Camp Lejeune, NC |

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (Continued)

- o Heavy equipment operators dug a hole or pit up to 20 feet deep which was into ground water.
- o The contents of the drums that sometimes broke open contained either liquid, but mostly powder.
- o "Gas" was buried at MCAS(H) near present housing area in 1949-50 in deep pits.
- o "Gas" was buried at Rifle Range Chemical Dump.
- o gas" was buried at Camp Geiger trailer park dump in 1965-67.
- o An explosion and fire which injured a heavy equipment operator during the burial of drums at the Rifle Range Chemical Dump set the woods on fire and blew drums of material all over the woods. The materials involved in this dumping was trichloroethylene (TCE), calcium hypochlorite (STB), and pesticides, according to a memo about the incident. The term "gas" was not used for this disposal.
- o At least 12 separate dumpings were recounted by heavy equipment operators.
- o The life of the chemical dump has been changed to about 1950 to 1976.

EOD and NBC Interviews

- o During the war years, CN and CS gas (tear gas) was available in 55-gallon drums and 5-gallon pails.
- o The CN-1, CN-2, and later CS is a powder that can be spread over a field for training or demonstration purposes.
- o There was reportedly a "gas" school at Camp Geiger or Monford Point area of Camp Lejeune during WWII.
- o CN-1 and CN-2 are more dangerous than CS, which replaced the former gas."
CN-1 and CN-2 can be fatal in lower concentrations than CS.
- o The eight vials of straw-colored liquid recovered at the MCAS(H) housing construction area in 1958, described as phosgene gas, may have been a stimulant. A broken vial had the odor of "new mown hay," which is characteristic of phosgene gas.

TRAVELER

Wallace Eakes

PLACE VISITED

Camp Lejeune, NC

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (Continued)

Probable Disposal

- o The "gas" buried at Camp Lejeune is most likely CN or CS.
- o The term "gas" can be applied to CN or CS and is consistent with materials in stock during the 1950's.
- o Military ordnance and chemical personnel say that the material described by the heavy equipment operators is CN or CS.

Other New Information

1. Lot 140 (site 21):

- o In 1950-51, about 1500 to 6000 gallons of transformer oil was dumped into a trench.

2. Bldg 1502:

Drums of leaking transformer oil beside Bldg 1502 were taken to mess hall grease disposal area and dumped.

3. Camp Geiger trailer park dump:

- o Tons of Mirex in bags were dumped in 1964.
- o. Ordnance consisting of grenades, shells, mortars, were dumped and buried there.
- o Drums of material similar in description to that buried at the Rifle Range chemical dump were buried at the Camp Geiger trailer park dump.

4. New dump near saw mill

- o Operated in early to mid fifties for disposal of mess hall grease.
- o Many pits of 130 ft long by 30 ft wide were dug for the disposal.
- o Drums of material were also buried in the area. A guess is pesticides.
- o Transformer oil also buried at this site; it's not known if it contains PCBs.

| TRAVELER | PLACE VISITED |
|---------------|------------------|
| Wallace Eakes | Camp Lejeune, NC |

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (Continued)
WAR Commitment

- o WAR personnel will assess the chemical pollutants associated with CN and CS disposal into the ground water at MCAS(H).
- o WAR personnel will address the possible migration of transformer oil or pesticides buried near potable water well between Holcumb Blvd. and Piney Green Road.
- o WAR personnel will submit draft of MCB IAS during March 1982 which will include new site information.
- o MCAS Cherry Point and NSY Norfolk IAS will be submitted to NEESA in early February.

Exit Brief

I briefed COL Marshall, Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities. The briefing went well and he was relieved to know that the "gas" appears to be only CN or CS.

COL Marshall wants to get on with Phase II of NACIP. I told him that LANTDIV is proceeding with Confirmation for the Rifle Range Site. I told him to contact Mr. Jerry Wallmeyer for the progress of the paperwork.

The people at Camp Lejeune are ready and willing to proceed with Phase II. It appears to me that if the Navy cannot implement the Phase II work in a timely manner, Camp Lejeune will have Marines with picks and shovels at the disposal sites doing their own investigation. We really need to get moving at Camp Lejeune.

Some Observations

- o Camp Lejeune has hired an Environmental Engineer working for COL Marshall.
- o Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs have been moved from under Base Maintenance to Facilities. NREAD now has direct access to Bldg 1 (and the General)
- o With the new Environmental Engineer and reorganization of the environmental staff, Camp Lejeune has placed a higher priority on environmental matters than in the past.
- o I think some additional help from NEESA or LANT^{div} in preparing the Scope of Work for the Phase II Study would be in order while DOD still has money.
The environmental staff at Camp Lejeune will assist in any way in such a project.