Joint Task Group - Enewetak Atoll
6015 Support Squadron Provisional/SG
APO San Francisco 96333

403661

29 SEP 1977

From: USAF Clinic Enewetak/SG

Subject: Medical Inspection of Enewetak Salt Water Swimming Pool

To: CO, Joint Task Group - Enewetak

A medical sanitation inspection of the Enewetak salt water swimming pool was conducted 22 Sept 77 by Donald L. Aistrope, Jr, SSgt, USAF. The following observations and recommendations were made:

1. There was algae growth on the bottom of the pool and pieces of algae were floating in the water at time of inspection. (Continual repeat discrepancy) The algae caused the water to appear turbid. Turbidity is dangerous because struggling swimmers below the water surface may not be seen. Turbidity, by obscuring vision, can also cause accidents through collisions with the pool bottom or sides. Bacteria can flourish where algae exists. Recommend the pool be emptied and the algae removed. The algae should be removed as often as necessary and this procedure repeated as needed.

2. The fire hose used to create greater water circulation was disconnected from the salt water inlet pipe opening. Recommend it be connected.

3. Ring buoys with rope attached and reach poles were not available at the pool. Recommend one or more throwing ring buoys attached to a 3/8 inch nylon rope and a reach pole (s) always be readily accessible at the pool side.

4. A telephone and first aid kit were not available at the pool. Recommend a telephone with a list of emergency telephone numbers and a first aid kit be available in the pool area.

5. Material that settles to the pool bottom (including algae) was not removed daily. Recommend a pool suction cleaner with fork attachment be utilized daily.

6. There was no ladder present on the south shallow end of the pool. Recommend a ladder be built.

7. A lifeguard was not present during swimming hours. Recommend a full time lifeguard be on duty during swimming hours to enforce pool regulations and keep the pool clean. Also recommend an elevated chair or platform be provided for the lifeguards use.

8. No overflow or scum gutter was available. Recommend one or the other be installed to extend completely around the pool and be of a design to provide continuous removal of water. Surface skimmers may be provided rather than overflow gutters. There should be one for each 600 square feet of surface area. The pool must be overflowed daily to remove floating scum and debris.

9. There was no fence around the pool area. Recommend a fence approximately five feet in height with a door that locks be built around the entire pool area.

10. Ideally the pool should be supplied with fresh water capable of being chlorinated and recirculated through a filter which removes, filters, disinfects and pumps the water back into the pool.

JOSEPH E. THORPE, Lt Col, USAF, MC, FS
Surgeon, Joint Task Group - Enewetak Atoll

DONALD L. AISTROPE JR, SSgt, USAF
Veterinary Public Health Inspector

Capt. Tock - For your info -

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Joseph E. Thorpe

JOSEPH E. THORPE, Lt Col, USAF, MC, FS
Surgeon, Joint Task Group - Enewetak Atoll

Donald L. Aistrope Jr

DONALD L. AISTROPE JR, SSgt, USAF
Veterinary Public Health Inspector

(The pool was placed off limits by you the other day but no signs were posted).

(Several E. coli organisms were seen in the 28 Sept. 77 bacteriological test of swimming pool) (Over 2000 other type bacteria also seen).