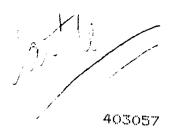


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

DASG-PSP-E

20 March 1979

SUBJECT: Medical Follow-up on Rongerik Personnel Exposed to Fallout,

March 1954

Director Defense Nuclear Agency ATIN: Biomedical Advisor Washington, DC 20305

Transmitted herewith is the available information on subject follow-up. FOR THE SURGEON GENEFAL:

1 Inci

TARAS NOWOSKUSKY, M.D.

Colonel, MC

Chief, Preventive Medicine Consultants

Division

CF: DACS-DEC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

,

ARMY PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO FALLOUT ON RONGERIK-SHOT CASTLE BRAVO - 1 MARCH 1954

- Personnel

- Three Army personnel (plus 25 Air Force personnel) exposed to fallout beginning approximately 1400-1430 hours, 1 March 1954.
- Estimated dose to Army personnel from single film badge on tent pole was 98 rem.
 - Evacuated to Kwajalein on 2 March 1954.

- Kwajalein

- Personnel, evacuation planes and crews were subjected to a through decontamination procedure.
 - Each man took from 5 to 11 showers on 2 March.
 - Skin decontamination continued over several days.
- Personnel ordered to Tripler Army Hospital on 29 April 54 for medical observation.

- Tripler Army Hospital

- Detailed records lost in St Louis fire.
- From a single remaining Air Force medical record, care consisted of:
 - - radioanalysis of urine, feces and blood
 - - Treatment of skin irritations
 - - Psychological consultation
 - - Ophthalmologic examination
 - - Surgical consultation
 - - General physical examination

- - Complete dental examination
- - Routine hemotology and urine analysis
- From Brookhaven National Laboratory Report BNL 50220(T-562), the American servicement were returned to duty in view of the generally negative findings.

- Subsequent follow-up

- Army personnel included in Air Force follow-up letter in late 1970 or early 1971 at the request of DOD. Letter suggested that they seek medical advice at VA hospitals.
 - No further follow-up until current NTPR effort
- Medical results of Air Force personnel still on active duty at the time were normal.
 - One Army individual died of suicide in 1967.