



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Herbert B. Lopor, Major General, USA
Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project
P. O. Box 2610
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Lopor:

This is in reply to your letter of 8 August 1952.

The matter has been given special consideration in an attempt to arrive at reasonable and practical recommendations.

There is a firm requirement for a policy such as the Armed Forces now pursue in connection with exposures in isotope laboratories, atomic tests, and in such situations as are similar to those encountered in peace time where personnel of the Armed Forces might possibly be exposed to ionizing radiations. The value of such records as were kept in the Manhattan Engineer District and in the atomic tests have proved vital in the evaluation of alleged service-connected disabilities by veterans. It is therefore noted with satisfaction that it is not intended to change this policy as regards health protection of personnel of the Armed Forces in such situations.

The maintenance of detailed statistical records of radiological exposures received by personnel serving within the Armed Forces, when it involves exposures received in any manner other than that described in the preceding paragraph, admittedly poses a heavy burden upon the various services. On the other hand, in evaluating the claims of the individual veteran who may have been exposed, the value of such information may be of vital significance. Unless suitable records are available, it is difficult to see how it will be possible to evaluate claims to the best advantage of either the veteran or the Government.

It is the present policy of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to urge that no change in present policies and practices within the Armed Forces be made. In recognition of the heavy burden placed upon the Armed Forces, particularly in case of enemy employment of weapons that may result in injury to personnel as a result of ionizing radiation,

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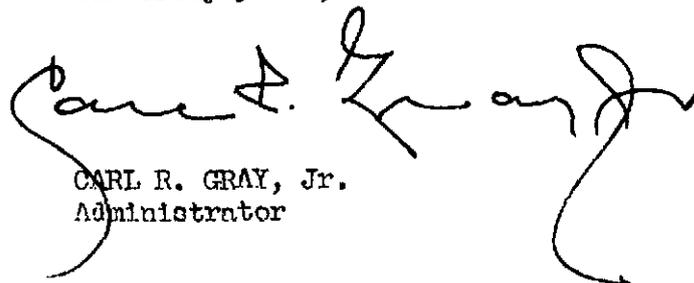
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Herbert B. Loper, Major General, USA

it is proposed that a careful study of this matter be undertaken within the coming year in order to arrive at a policy which will be consistent with practical accomplishments. In this study the cooperation of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project and the Veterans Administration would be indicated and they should consult with the Division of Medicine and Biology of the Atomic Energy Commission, and of the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare, Research and Development Board.

Sincerely yours,



CARL R. GRAY, Jr.
Administrator

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