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BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D.C. UNIQUE DOCUMENT # SAA200054620000

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Serial # 005007

17 Feb 1947.

From: Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Director, Radiation Laboratory, San Francisco Navy Yard

Subject: Expression of Interests of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the Activities of Radiation Laboratory San Francisco Navy Shipyard.

1. The interests of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery are outlined.

2. Health Examinations and Medical Service. To observe the health status of personnel engaged in the pursuit of technical studies and maintenance on target vessels, certain medical personnel, including clinical laboratory technicians, will be assigned to the Radiation Laboratory to fulfill a specific medical function quite beyond the field of radiological safety techniques. They will maintain separate health records from those of the Yard Dispensary, which will continue to care for the regulation health records. For the present these activities will be under the direction of Lieutenant Eldred W. Barnes (MC)U.S.N. He already has this activity under way and has received the guidance and assistance of Captain Churchill (MC)U.S.N., the Yard Medical Officer. The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery has issued specific instructions to Lieutenant Barnes as to the examinations to be made and how they will be conducted. It is essential that a complete health examination coverage be continuously provided for personnel so engaged on these target vessels and employed in the Radiation Laboratory.

3. Radiological Safety Measures. The health of personnel engaged in technical studies or maintenance on target vessels must be protected. To do this certain safety requirements have been established by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and safety practices in conformity thereto have been established at the San Francisco Navy Shipyard. To implement this, non-medical personnel trained in radiological safety measures and able to detect and measure external radiation, have been provided for the Radiation Laboratory. These personnel are under the general cognizance of representatives of the Bureau of Ships. To assist in the conduct of radiological safety operations medical officers trained in matters of radiological safety will be attached to the

Page 1 of 4 pages

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Date

(Signature) P. Hirschfeld - Clerk

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Radiation Laboratory for the purpose of giving appropriate medical advice but not to serve as "monitors". These medical officers will be the main those also engaged in the activities described in paragraph 2 of this memorandum and they will be under the administrative control of Lieutenant Barnes representing the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. This will include the personnel engaged in photographic dosimetry.

4. Technical Investigations Including Radiochemistry.
To procure scientific and technical information required by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the fulfillment of its responsibilities as defined in CNO letter (Conf.) Serial 021P602, dated 27 August 1946, it is necessary that certain scientific and technical studies be conducted which are beyond the field of health examinations or of simple radiological safety techniques. Lieutenant Commander Royce K. Skow HC (S)U.S.N.R., is to represent the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the administrator of this group until such time as an administrator familiar with Bumed procedures can be procured. The purpose of this will be to relieve Lieutenant Commander Skow, Lieutenant George W. Morrison (HC)U.S.N., and Lieutenant (jg) Mortimer E. Morton (MC)U.S.N. for the purely technical activities for which they are so urgently needed. Within this group will be included in addition to the personnel engaged with radiochemistry, those conducting radioactive counts on urines, stools, and air, and such other technicians as may be required to service or assist them in the fulfillment of their specific technical mission. This may include personnel required for the procurement of samples for study in such manner as to make sampling sufficiently reliable to justify extended scientific study of a statistical nature. For the technical guidance of this group Lieutenant (jg) Morton will provide the supervision required and he will be relieved of administrative responsibilities as completely as possible. He will also serve as the principal liaison agent between the medical section of the laboratory, including radiochemistry, and the University of California scientists. He will also maintain an intimate working relationship between the section in which he is engaged and the Atomic Energy Group in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Specifically this will include Rear Admiral Clarence J. Brown (MC)U.S.Navy, Captain George N. Lyon (MC)U.S.N.R., and Captain Oscar Schneider (MC)U.S.N.

5. Biological Research. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery is interested in maintaining a balance and integration in regard to its many interests and activity in this field of research in varied problems of atomic energy. This includes the safety, medical, and biologic aspects of the atomic energy. To this end it is assumed that biological studies involving animal experimentation will be properly integrated with the program of the Naval Medical Research Institute and that they will be conducted under the technical direction of Captain R. H. Draeger (MC) U.S.S., representing the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Page 2 of 4 pages

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The main technical interest at the moment, due to its special relationship to the radiological safety program of the Navy, lies in the matters referred to in paragraph four (4). These are described somewhat more in detail, and present a general indication as to the priority the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery has assigned the topics indicated.

A. Primary, or dictated by immediate necessity:

1. The development of suitable means of detection and measurement, in the field, of fissionable material and of fission product hazard.
2. Studies of external and internal radiation hazards on ex-target vessels, to include correlation with analytical data developed by non-medical studies of the laboratory.
3. Investigation of the inhalation hazard, correlating concentrations, size, and nature of radioactive dust particles with absorption and the degree of internal hazard.
4. Testing and development of safety procedures to be employed in the presence of radiation, and dispersed radioactive materials including such other conditions of this nature as are encountered in investigations of the laboratory.
5. Qualitative and quantitative investigations of radioactive materials as found aboard the ex-target vessels in order to derive data for the establishment of levels of maximum permissible exposures and total dosage.
6. Maintenance of clinical records and observations on personnel in regular contact with ex-target vessels.
7. Development and improvement of diagnostic procedures with emphasis on problems of internal radiation hazard.

B. Secondary, or desirable because of opportunity presently provided by ex-target vessels.

1. Information essential to establish maximum permissible exposure to alpha, beta and gamma radiation throughout the energy spectrum and attempt correlation with other physical and chemical studies and spectrum analysis.
2. Investigations of toxicity of fissionable materials, fission products, and their chemical compounds, including biological studies.

Page 3 of 4 pages

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G. Projected for long term studies.

1. Studies of over-exposure of radiation, both external and internal, and limiting factors with reference to battle efficiency, rescue and salvage or other emergency conditions.
2. Investigations of cellular chemical mechanisms and cellular physiology as pertain to radiation and radioactive substances in the field of nuclear fission.

7. The attached chart represents the functional activities grouped within the Medical Section, Radiation Laboratory, San Francisco Navy Ship Yard.

/s/ George M. Lyon

GEORGE M. LYON
Captain (MC) U.S.N.R.
By direction

cc:
Admiral Parsons
Admiral Solberg

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9-19-55
Date

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