

OSD1.950315.003

REVIEW OF SEARCH FOR COLD WAR RADIATION EXPERIMENTS
(Code 302113)

BACKGROUND

GAO currently has the following documents relating to DOD's attempts to identify and gather records on radiation experiments:

- 1) White House Memo from Christine A. Varney, dtd January 19, 1994;
- 2) Memo From former Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, dtd 07 Jan 1994
- 3) Memo from ATSD(AE) Harold P. Smith, Jr., dtd January 31, 1994
- 4) Advisory Committee Staff Memo "Initial Report on the Department of Defense Document Search", dtd June 7, 1994

Generally, GAO is interested in (a) the planning, coordinating, and data-gathering activities that occurred after the Les Aspin and ATSD(AE) memos, (b) the information presented to the Advisory Committee Staff, (c) DOD activities that have occurred since your presentation of data to the Advisory Committee Staff, and (d) documentation in support of (a), (b), and (c).

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

NOTE: Much of the following requested documentation seems to have been presented to the Advisory Committee Staff in some form, based on a reading of the Advisory Staff Memo. If this is true, it may be advantageous to obtain what was provided to the Committee as quickly as possible and proceed to other data that was not provided to the Committee.

1. Agency action plan and procedures for (a) identifying, locating, inventorying, and retrieving all pertinent records of radiation experiments, intentional releases involving human subjects and other specific experiments identified in the ATSD(AE) memo, (b) disclosing the information to the subjects of the experiments and the public.
2. Agency procedures for retrieving records from current and former non-government grantees and contractors.
3. Personnel involved in developing the plan, directing and performing records search activities, and reviewing records. Include:

- * members of the Working Group chaired by the ATSD (AE) which was charged with structuring the process for data collection and analysis and the development of an overall plan of action (See memo dtd 07 Jan 94, 2nd paragraph from former spin).
 - * how many personnel at each agency headquarters and field location, including Radiation Experiments Command Center
 - * type of personnel and qualifications (for example: historian, archivist, records management, clerical, scientist, etc.)
 - * area of responsibility/role played (for example: developing plan, directing the records search, performing records search activities, reviewing records on radiation experiments, etc.)
 - * number of hours per week each person devotes to this project
 - * whether personnel are federal employees or contractors
4. Number of sites/locations involved in records search. Please list.
 5. Statistics on records and experiments.
 - estimate of number of records and experiments found to date
 - estimate of total number of records and total number of experiments
 - * estimate of percentage of records and experiments agency officials think they will be able to retrieve
 6. Statistics on cost/funding.
 - * Cost to agency to date
 - Estimate on final cost to agency
 - * Source of funding for agency effort
 7. Documentation of all steps, procedures, and actions that agency has gone through to:
 - * ensure the quality, integrity, and completeness of the records search activities
 - * ensure record searchers comply with procedures
 - provide necessary resources to accomplish plan
 - * provide for feedback to monitor progress and problems

(e.g., memos, site visits, trip reports, progress reports)

8. Difficulties in implementing the agency records search plan-- according to agency officials, field offices, and sites.
9. Types of information agency is gathering on human subjects of experiments:
 - * health status before and after experiment
 - * age at time of experiment
 - * race
 - * sex
 - * vulnerable/disadvantaged status (such as mentally ill)
 - * whether informed consent was obtained
 - * current status and location of subject (or next-of-kin)
 - * cause of death and age of death of subject
 - * other information
10. Plans and procedures for identifying and locating human subjects of radiation experiments. For example:
 - who will make contacts?
 - * how will it be done (e.g., in person, by phone, in writing)
 - * what types of information will be provided to subjects?
11. Status of agency efforts to identify and notify human subjects of radiation experiments. Include:
 - * how many subjects have been identified to date?
 - * how many subjects have been notified to date?
 - estimate of number of subjects agency officials think they will be able to identify and notify
 - what are the reactions of the subjects?
12. Documentation of agreements and correspondence between agency and Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.
13. Documentation of agency efforts to declassify classified data.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

The answers to some of these questions also seem to be contained in the materials provided to the Advisory Committee Staff.

1. Is DOD still using the definition of radiation experiment contained in the ATSD(AE) memo of Jan. 31, 1994?
2. In retrospect, what were the shortcomings of the action plan. Was the original plan modified after implementation? If so, how and why? (5)
3. Has the guidance the White House, the Interagency Group, and the Advisory Committee been clear, helpful, and timely in supporting the agency's records search activities prior to the initial presentation of data to the Advisory Committee? (7)
4. How much interchange has occurred between DOD's search group and the Advisory Committee. What additional directions has DOD received from the Advisory Committee and how might these directions impact on the agency's current radiation events search efforts? (8)
5. What format did DOD use to provide data to the Advisory Committee? Did the Advisory Committee request a specific format? When did DOD start providing data to the Advisory Committee? (9)
6. Can you please update us on the status of your effort. When do you expect to complete your work? (10)
7. How many records were found initially? How many experiments? What is your estimate for the total number of experiments and do you expect to be able to retrieve all of them? If not, what percent do you expect to retrieve? (11c)
8. Is DOD having any difficulties retrieving records from non-government organizations that performed the work under grants and contracts that have expired? (6)
 - Do ex-non-government contractors insist on being paid to now search their archives for pertinent records and does DOD have funding for this?
 - * How will DOD be able to ensure the quality and integrity of the search activities performed by non-government entities such as hospitals, universities, private contractors, etc?
 - If DOD pays for these searches will it insist on checking the quality of the search (e.g., put this provision into the contract)?

9. Is DOD using the Help Line? If so, how is it being used to aid the records search activities? Can you provide examples of how DOD is using information from the Help Line? How many calls has DOD received? (9)
10. What is the status of DOD's efforts to identify and notify subjects? How many subjects have been identified, how many notified, and what are the subjects' reactions? (5)
11. Does DOD have concerns about contacting the subjects and revealing details of experiments. For example, the information given to the subject might be the basis for litigation.
 - * Has DOD consulted with its general counsel on the matter of contacting subjects? If so, what are the cautions from the general counsel on the matter?
 - Has the general counsel provided a script to follow in subject contacts?

PRIMARY ACTION OFFICE AND COLLEAGUE ACTION OFFICE
POINTS OF CONTACT

GAO CODE 302113

7-1
1132
P.R.

PAO Or CAO	Component -- Indicate Office Symbol	Name	Location	Telephone #	FAX Number
PAO	US D(A+T)	Dr Gordon Super, Principal Deputy, OATSU (AE)	3E1074	(703) 697-5161	(703) 695-0476
CAO	ARMY				
CAO	NAVY				
CAO	FORCE				
CAO	ASD(HA)	Col Salvatore Livone	3D366	(703) 695-7117	(703) 614-3537
CAO	DIR, DNA	MRS JOAN PIERRE		(703) 325-7302	(703) 325-963
CAO	JS	Mindy Roberts	2B941	(703) 697-9660	(703) 693-6298

7-1
9:50
M.R.

7-7
8:10
CAPT
John
Ford

7-7
10:25
M.R.

GS

703 6930207 P. 01
Mtg Set for
7/19/94

0900-1000
@ 400 Army Navy D
Rm 642
Paperclip Bldg
White Bldg.



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-2884

Analysis
and Followup

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO:

ORGANIZATION

- (1) Bernadette Jemeva FAX 695-0476 PHONE 697-5161 ROOM 3E1074
- (2) Fou Du Gordon Saper, PDATSD(AE) FAX _____ PHONE _____ ROOM _____
- (3) _____ FAX _____ PHONE _____ ROOM _____
- (4) _____ FAX _____ PHONE _____ ROOM _____

USD(A+T)

FROM: Office of GAO Surveys and Reviews
400 Army Navy Drive, Room 555
Arlington, Virginia 22202-2884

OFFICE PHONE: (703) ~~693-0214~~ DSN: ~~223-0214~~
604-9630

FAX PHONE: (703) ~~693-0207~~ DSN: ~~223-0207~~
604-9608

REF: GAO CODE NUMBER: 302113

SENT BY: Bob Benefiel

TIME: _____ DATE: 7-7-94

- 13 TOTAL PAGES (Including this page)
- 3 TASKING MEMO DATED 7-1-94
- 1 GAO LETTER DATED 6-20-94
- 2 OTHER Glenn Letter Dated 4-14-94
- 5 GAO Data Needs
- 1 List of POCs Identified in Data