

THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Medical Sciences
and
Committee on Atomic Energy
Washington 25, D. C.

File

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DIRECTIVE
JOINT PANEL ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ATOMIC WARFARE

1. ORGANIZATION

The Panel on Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare is established as a joint agency of the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy. The Committee on Medical Sciences shall have administrative responsibility for the Panel.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Panel on Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare is to assist the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy in the implementation of their directives in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Members.

The Panel on Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare shall consist of:

(1) Three civilian members, one of whom shall be designated chairman, to be appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Medical Sciences, subject to concurrence by the chairman of the Committee on Atomic Energy.

(2) Not more than two members nominated by the Department of the Army.

(3) Not more than two members nominated by the Department of the Navy.

(4) Not more than two members nominated by the Department of the Air Force.

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Appointments of members are subject to approval by both Committees.

3.2 Deputy Members.

A deputy with plenary powers for each member may be nominated by the appropriate authority. Appointments of deputies are subject to approval by both Committees.

3.3 Associate Members.

A major governmental agency may formally nominate, through the appropriate governmental department, a qualified representative to act as an associate member as specified by the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Board. Appointments of associate members are subject to approval by both Committees.

3.4 Term of Service.

Members, deputies, and associates shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed.

4. PROCEDURE

The Panel on Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare is encouraged to function as an independent entity within the limits of its terms of reference.

4.1 Administrative Functions.

In accordance with the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Board and the directive of the Committee, the Panel is authorized:

(1) To employ professional and other personnel as necessary to discharge its responsibilities under a budget authorized by the Board through the Executive Secretary and the executive director of the Committee on Medical Sciences.

(2) To establish its own administrative procedures.

(3) To establish such supporting subpanels and consultant agencies as it may require.

4.2 Limitations.

On internal matters of procedures, administration, budgets, and personnel, and in relationships between the Panel and the Committees

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or the Board or other panels, the executive director of the Committee on Medical Sciences is designated to act in accordance with the procedure established by the Executive Secretary, RDB.

Action of the Panel shall be effectuated in accordance with the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Board.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

In pursuit of its stated objective, the Panel on Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare shall be responsible for the operations outlined herein.

5.1 Collection of Information.

The Panel shall continuously survey research and development activities in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare, both within and without the Military Establishment, and obtain:

(1) Necessary information concerning United States and foreign progress, programs, plans, and budgets in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

(2) Necessary information from the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy on such aspects of over-all planning for national defense as may be needed in formulating an adequate program for research and development in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

5.2 Evaluation and Coordination.

The Panel shall analyze and evaluate information obtained in accordance with Section 5.1 in order to:

(1) Determine the major goals and problems in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare and direct constant emphasis on them.

(2) Assess the adequacy of plans, programs, and projects and assess the merit and effectiveness with which programs are handled.

(3) Determine the presence of unjustifiable duplication of effort in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

(4) Determine the presence of serious gaps which exist in the programs.

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(5) Assess the adequacy of facilities, personnel, and equipment currently available and estimate future requirements.

(6) Assess the degree of coordination obtained in programs, including that reflected in budget requests.

5.3 Presentation of Reports and Recommendations.

The Panel shall prepare and present reports and informative papers in order to:

(1) Inform the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy of the facts and trends in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

(2) Inform the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy as to the implications on plans, operations, and strategy of new weapons, equipment, and techniques in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

(3) Inform the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy of the requirements for materials and components in the research and development programs of the Military Establishment in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

5.4 Furtherance of the Directives of the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy.

The Panel shall recommend in the form of completed staff action and in accordance with regular procedures of the Board and Committees:

(1) An integrated plan of research and development for military purposes in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare not less frequently than once a year.

(2) Allocation and, when desirable, reallocation of responsibility among the military Departments for research and development programs in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

(3) Means whereby maximum advantage may be taken of critical resources and new advances, solution of problems may be speeded, undesirable duplication, waste, or neglect may be avoided, and liaison, and cooperation and direct dealing among agencies may be furthered.

(4) Present to the Committees at appropriate times, as specified in the current RDB schedule of operations, recommendations regarding

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funds for research and development programs and facilities in the field of medical aspects of atomic warfare.

6. FIELD OF INTEREST

The subject matter for which the Panel is responsible shall include research and development in the medical aspects of atomic warfare with special emphasis on human tolerance to and protection against radioactivity, decontamination of exposed individuals, and treatment of radiation casualties, except those fields where jurisdiction has been allocated to other RDB committees and panels.

7. LIAISON

The Panel shall maintain liaison with other groups and agencies both within and outside the RDB which have related interests. The executive director of the Committee on Medical Sciences and/or the executive director of the Committee on Atomic Energy, through the Executive Secretary, RDB, will collaborate in arranging effective liaison. Questions arising because of overlapping or conflicting interests between panels of the Committee on Medical Sciences and the Committee on Atomic Energy or agencies of the Board shall be resolved through the executive directors of the Committees and the Executive Secretary of the Board.

By Direction of the Committee:

Joseph F. Sadusk, Jr.

JOSEPH F. SADUSK, JR., M.D.
Executive Director
Committee on Medical Sciences

Approved by the Committees on Atomic Energy and Medical Sciences and by the Executive Council at its 94th meeting held 15 February 1949.

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