

**Statement by Major General Kenneth L. Hagemann, USAF**  
**Director, Defense Nuclear Agency**  
**Department of Defense**

**before**

**Committee on Governmental Affairs**  
**United States Senate**  
**25 January 1994**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate having this opportunity to appear before the committee. We at the Defense Nuclear Agency are committed to gathering and reviewing any and all data or information related to ionizing radiation research on human subjects.

My statement will concentrate on DNA's management of the Nuclear Test Personnel Review -- or "NTPR" -- program. This is a program initiated in the late 1970s to identify and assist veterans and selected DoD civilians who participated in the U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing program. In 1988, the NTPR program was expanded to also cover DoD personnel who participated in the post-war occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The program provides individuals with participation data and exposure levels to assist them in applying for health care or compensation from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor. These departments are responsible for assessing health effects and determining whether an individual is eligible for health care or compensation.

As of 1 January 1994, we had identified 205,472 individuals who participated in the U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing program. Another 195,753 DoD personnel associated with the post-war occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had also been identified. Over the past five years, as a result of individuals contacting us, we have added about 2,000 new program participants annually.

We have learned that doses to most individuals were quite low. In fact, about 25 per cent received no measurable dose. Less than one per cent of the participants -- about 1600 individuals -- received doses in excess of today's Federal guidance for occupational exposure, which is 5 rem per year. The average exposure to NTPR program participants was less than 1 rem.

Reaching out to these individuals and informing them of their potential exposure has proven challenging. We have had to rely on an outreach program to encourage them to contact us. Our outreach efforts include articles in veterans' magazines, media releases, and presentations at veterans' groups and conventions. A key component of our outreach program has been a toll-free helpline. For the benefit of those individuals watching today's hearing, the toll-free number to contact the NTPR program is 1-800-462-3683.

As of today, we have established contact with approximately 70,000 individuals. Phone calls to the NTPR helpline accounted for the vast majority of contacts.

In conclusion, the NTPR program has proven highly effective in meeting the needs of its participants. DNA remains fully committed to its original philosophy of honesty, candidness, and thoroughness in its management of this program.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having the opportunity to be here today. I would be pleased to answer questions from the committee members.