



Department of Defense  
Radiation Experiments Command Center  
6801 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22310-3398

RCC1.941121.001a

**DATE:** 21 November 1994  
**TO:** Claud Bailey, Jr.  
Colonel, AG, USA  
Deputy Director  
Radiation Experiments Command Center (RECC)  
**FROM:** Brian H. Thompson, RECC Researcher *BHT*  
**SUBJECT:** Trip Report to Field Command, Defense Nuclear Agency (FCDNA), Kirtland Air Force Base, 16 - 18 November 1994

**PURPOSE:** To accompany Mr. Donald M. Alderson, Director, Research Department, Department of Defense (DoD) Nuclear Information Analysis Center (DASIAC) to Field Command, Defense Nuclear Agency (FCDNA), Kirtland Air Force Base to investigate the possibility of previously unreviewed records holdings pertinent to the DoD human radiation experiments record review and to evaluate the thoroughness of the FCDNA prior record review.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Human Radiation Experiments forwarded directly to the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE) a copy of a September 1992 History Associates' publication titled, "A Guide to Archival Collections Relating to Radioactive Fallout From Nuclear Weapon Testing" (see Tab A). The History Associates' Guide raised the possibility that record holdings existed at FCDNA that had not been reviewed for human radiation experiments documents. Mr. Alderson's and my task was twofold. First, establish what record holdings existed at FCDNA and what had been done to review these records. Second, to conduct spot checks on the record holdings at FCDNA.

**OVERVIEW:** Mr. Alderson and I developed a strategy for accomplishing our task. Our plan was to identify what records holdings existed at FCDNA, determine what steps had been taken to review the record holdings, how these holdings correlated with the holdings identified by the Guide, spot check likely areas for human radiation experiment records and develop a comprehensive search strategy memorandum.

To accomplish this task we reviewed record transmittal forms and print outs from on-line indexes of record holdings. The purpose of this was

two-fold. First, to correlate FCDNA's record holdings with those identified by the History Associates' Guide and determine if all record holdings had been searched. Second, to identify likely areas to conduct spot checks.

We were able to correlate all of the FCDNA record holdings with record holdings identified in the History Associates' Guide with the exception of one group of records. Mrs. Susan Mabry, FCDNA Records Administrator, was able to determine that one records holding identified by the History Associates' Guide (Logistics Directorate, Radiation Records Branch records) was no longer located at FCDNA. These records had been shipped out to DOE's Coordination and Information Center (CIC) in Nevada sometime around 1990. Apparently the records are related to the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) program and are stored by the CIC contractor, the Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company (RECCo). The holdings amount to more than 250 boxes. Fifty of these boxes had been previously reviewed for NTPR related records and 54,000 nuclear testing documents were identified and added to the CIC database. This database was searched as part of the human radiation experiments records search. The remaining 200 boxes were not identified or reviewed for the human radiation experiments record search. The DOE team that conducted the record search at RECCo decided that the boxes were not pertinent and did not identify or review the boxes.

Mr. Alderson and I focused our spot checks on record holdings that would be most likely to yield positive results. By reviewing print outs and transmittals of record holdings in all areas, approximately thirty records were identified as possibly relating to human radiation experiments. We reviewed each of these records and determined that none related to human radiation experiments. During our search we did find two Public Health Service (PHS) documents that describe cloud fly through programs apparently sponsored by PHS. I tagged these records because they seem to identify a cloud fly through program that I was not sure had been previously identified by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Information on the cloud fly through program was not part of the original request for records and therefore these records should not be characterized as documents overlooked by FCDNA during their comprehensive search.

During our review of the various FCDNA record holding areas we visited the Interservice Nuclear Weapons School (FCIN). The school maintains a radiation accident training field that is populated by radioactive thorium. This field is used to train students from the school in the use and operation of radiation detection equipment. The existence of the field has been publicly documented and was reported to Headquarters, DNA during the

initial human radiation experiment record search. A more detailed account of our actions during this trip is provided at Tab B.

**OBSERVATIONS:** All the records holding areas at FCDNA are well maintained and the supporting documentation is accurate and up to date. It became apparent soon after we arrived that senior FCDNA officers were knowledgeable about and committed to the human radiation experiment review and had conducted a thorough search of their records. The personnel at FCDNA are very knowledgeable about what their records holding areas contain and were very helpful in assisting our record review. The searches conducted by FCDNA were conducted in one of two ways: an on-line review of several record holdings followed by document by document review; and/or a review of accurate transmittal forms followed by document by document review of many record holdings. This review was comprehensive and, as verified by our spot checks, accurate.

**FOLLOW-UP:** Two items need follow-up. First, FCDNA needs to review the contents of the 250+ boxes of Logistics Directorate, Radiation Records Branch records now located at REECo, Nevada. How and by whom the record review is to be conducted is still to be determined. Second, HQDNA needs to verify that the human radiation experiments information identified to date by FCDNA has been forwarded to the RECC, especially information related to the FCIN's radioactive thorium field.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The records holdings at FCDNA are mission oriented documents. Most of the reports we reviewed related directly to weapons development, testing and stockpiling. The DOE could have forwarded the History Associates' Guide to DNA or the RECC before alerting the ACHRE and resolved this issue during one day of phone calls and faxes. The quality of the FCDNA search for records at FCDNA was not in question. Once we were at FCDNA it only took several phone calls to determine that a group of FCDNA records were stored at the CIC and that these records had not been reviewed. Greater coordination between DoD and DOE could have eased the resolution of this matter.

CC: Ellen Ziegler  
Don Alderson, DASIAC  
Susan Mabry, FCDNA  
RECC Routing  
RECC Library