



Department of Defense Human Radiation Experiments Review

Background

- **7 December - Secretary O'Leary's Announcements Regarding The Involvement Of Human Subjects In Ionizing Radiation Research Resulted In Heightened Public Concern And Interest**
- **24 December - A National Helpline (1-800-493-2998) Was Initiated To Respond To Public Concern And Collect Preliminary Data Regarding Reported Subject(s) Exposure**
- **3 January - The Human Radiation Interagency Working Group Comprised Of Representatives Of DoE, DoD, HHS, DVA, DoJ, NASA, CIA, And OMB Was Established**
- **7 January - Dr. Harold P. Smith ATSD (AE) Has Been Appointed As The DoD-Wide Focal Point**
- **15 January - Executive Order 12891 Established An Advisory Committee On Human Radiation Experiments To Provide Executive Oversight And Review**

BACKGROUND

Since Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary's December 7, 1993 announcement concerning human radiation experimentation, the Federal Government has aggressively moved to confront the ramifications of these experiments. Hotlines were established, Congressional hearings planned and convened, departmental policies reviewed and initiatives developed to uncover the facts surrounding these activities.

Early in the new year President Clinton moved to organize the Executive Branch's response. On January 3, 1994, the President directed that a cabinet-level Human Radiation Interagency Working Group be established to coordinate the government-wide effort to discover the facts. Less than two weeks later, on January 15, 1994, the President signed an executive order that formed the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. The Advisory Committee, composed of experts in medicine, science and ethics from outside of the government, is to provide the Interagency Working Group with advice and recommendations. This was followed on January 19, 1994, with a White House memorandum that provided detailed guidance on locating and retrieving records of human radiation experiments.

Within the Department of Defense events also moved quickly. On December 30, 1993 Secretary of Defense Aspin directed the military departments and the Defense Nuclear Agency to conduct a comprehensive records review for information relating to human radiation experimentation. Subsequently, on January 7, 1994, Secretary Aspin signed a memorandum which provided further direction and assigned the project a high priority. The memorandum also announced the appointment of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy), Dr. Harold P. Smith, as the Department's "focal point for the compilation and review of data and information relating to ionizing radiation research."

Since his appointment Dr. Smith, and his Principal Deputy Dr. Gordon R. Soper, with the support of the military departments and Defense agencies, have moved forward on a broad front to confront the issues. A Department of Defense Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Smith, has met regularly to structure and guide the Department's efforts. The Committee's work is supported by a Department-wide network of subject matter experts and points of contact.

A major result of the Steering Committee's work was a 31 January 1994 memorandum from Dr. Smith that provided detailed guidance for the Department's record search. Over the next month agencies and military departments searched their files for information and submitted reports on the results of their investigations. These endeavors have provided the Department with a clearer understanding of the issue's scope and complexity.

To assist the Department's efforts, a Radiation Experiments Command Center (RECC) was established. The RECC is the Department's central repository and point of contact within and outside of the Department for matters related to human radiation experiments. Since its formation was announced on January 25, 1994, the RECC has established policies and procedures to enable it to receive, review, classify, catalogue, evaluate, and analyze documents to quickly and accurately respond to requests from the public and the Department.

Mission

To achieve a full accounting of DoD's involvement in radiation research and experimentation on human subjects.

Definition Of Human Radiation Experiments:

- **Experiments On Individuals Involving Intentional Exposure To Ionizing Radiation. This Category Does Not Include Common And Routine Clinical Practices, Such As Established Diagnosis and Treatment Methods, Involving Incidental Exposures To Ionizing Radiation**
- **Experiments Involving Intentional Environmental Releases Of Radiation That (A) Were Designed To Test Human Health Effects Of Ionizing Radiation; Or (B) Were Designed To Test The Extent Of Human Exposure To Ionizing Radiation**

Source: 31 January ATSD(AE) memorandum

DoD Objectives

- **Identify, locate and abstract available records and information regarding ionizing radiation research with human subjects.**
- **Assess and categorize experimentation information sponsored by and/or effecting DoD personnel.**
- **Serve the public by following up on inquiries generated through a National Helpline and other sources.**

Objectives may be added as the process evolves.

DoD Initiatives

- **7 January -**
SECDEF memorandum established DoD Steering Group
- **25 January -**
ATSD (AE) announced the establishment of Radiation Experiments Command Center (RECC)
- **31 January -**
ATSD (AE) memorandum directed DoD organizations to identify, locate and preserve radiation experiment records
- **21 February -**
RECC initiated contact with concerned citizens; defined data collection criteria for personal follow-up
- **1 March -**
Developed an integrated database to log and track incoming correspondence
- **5 April -**
Delivered an automated database to the military departments and some DoD agencies

Resources

- **Hundreds involved in search DoD-wide.**
- **Searches conducted at national records centers, archives, libraries, installations and hospitals.**
- **Voluminous records to be retrieved. Example: Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, 700 linear feet.**

Status of Record Review

- **On-going search of voluminous records files DoD-wide.**
- **Approximately 1,760 experiments identified.**
- **Assessing cost required to resource continuing effort.**
- **In-depth probes have disclosed only additional data about already known experiments.**

DoD Experiments Identified To Date

Air Force
• 106

Army
• 934

Navy
• 700

Marine Corps
• 0

Defense Agencies
• 17

Interagency Search Group



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Secretary & Deputy
Secretary of DoD

Gordon Soper
Principal Deputy to
Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense
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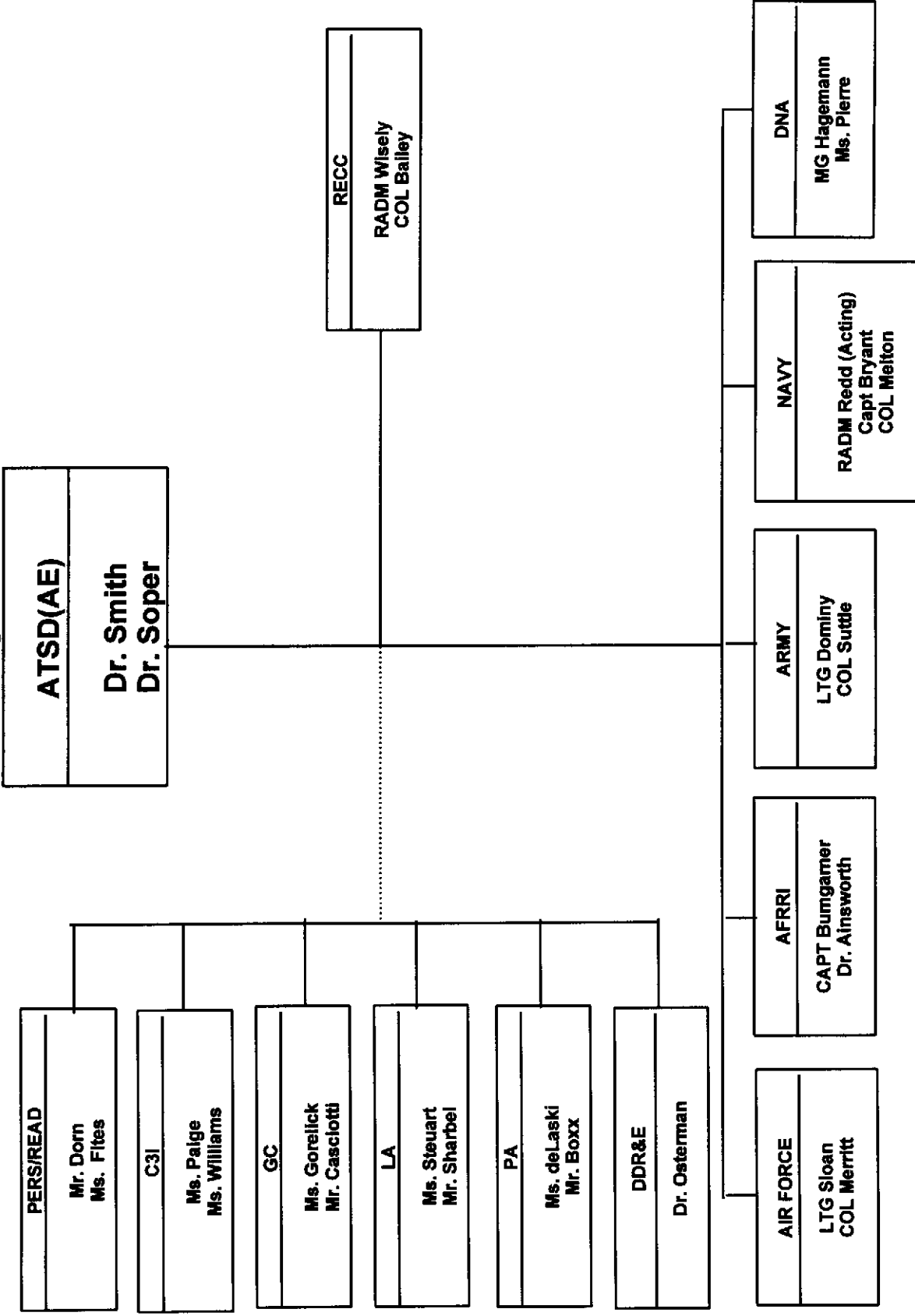
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Kathy Hudson
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Harold Gracey
Chief of Staff,
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DoD Steering Committee



DoD Congressional Testimony

Senate Committee on Labor and Human Services	13 Jan 1994	Senator Kennedy	Dr. Soper
Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs	25 Jan 1994	Senator Glenn	Dr. Smith
House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations	2 Feb 1994	Congressman Bryant	Dr. Smith
House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations	11 Apr 1994	Congressman Bryant	Dr. Soper

Related Congressional Testimony

Committee	Date	Chairman	Witness
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power	18 January 1994	Congressman Sharp	Secretary of Energy O'Leary
Committee on Veterans Affairs	8 February 1994	Congressman Montgomery	Secretary of Veterans Affairs Brown