

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
U. S. ARMY ARTILLERY AND MISSILE CENTER
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

AKPSISU

2 May 1963

SUBJECT: Investigation of Radiation Overexposure

~~THRU: Commanding General~~ *JKH - 6 May 63*
~~ATTN: Surgeon~~
~~Fourth United States Army~~
~~Fort Sam Houston, Texas~~

TO: The Surgeon General
ATTN: MEDPS-PO
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

1. References:

a. Letter, MEDPS-PO, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Office of The Surgeon General, dated 18 April 1963, Subject: "Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation".

b. TWX, SD 04568 from Sacramento Army Depot, dated 10 April 1963.

2. In compliance with references 1a and 1b above, which indicated exposure of film badge of PFC M. J. Mallon to 1510 millirem radiation, an investigation was immediately conducted to determine the source of exposure.

3. The film badges of personnel of this Command are monitored every seven (7) days. The actual period during which the overexposed badge was worn was from 31 March through 6 April 1963.

4. During the period in question, PFC Mallon was assigned to the operation of a photofluoroscopic chest film unit. This unit can only be operated from behind a protective barrier. On one day during the period, PFC Mallon was assigned to night duty in the X-Ray Department. He was required to make relatively few radiographic exposures and worked in a room provided with adequate protective devices. PFC Mallon indicated that he followed all recommended protective procedures, but it is suspected that he had left his film badge attached to a garment hung in

Washington National Record Center
Office of the Army Surgeon General
Record Group 112

Accession #: 67A-4511

Box #: 43

File: Over exposure Fourth U.S. Army

AKPSISU

2 May 1963

SUBJECT: Investigation of Radiation Overexposure

the same room with the photofluoroscopic unit after changing into his white hospital uniform. Exposure to the badge could have resulted from scatter radiation in this fashion.

5. Inspection of the involved equipment by an Army radiation physicist in March 1963, revealed no radiation hazards. Other personnel assigned to the operation of this equipment prior to and following the period in question have not received excessive radiation exposure.

6. Immediately upon notification of overexposure, PFC Mallon was removed from all duties involving radiation exposure until an investigation could be completed. A review of PFC Mallon's records indicated no prior overexposure. His total cumulative radiation exposure dose for the quarter preceding the overexposure was 80 millirems. Baseline blood counts were obtained and were normal. Repeat blood counts, 29 April 1963, were also normal. Serial follow-up studies will be obtained. Cumulative radiation exposure dosage will be monitored at weekly intervals.

7. Investigation revealed that PFC Mallon had been properly instructed in radiation protective techniques. Details of protective techniques are posted at the controls of all radiographic devices. Adequate action has been taken to insure that personnel wear film badges correctly.

FOR THE SURGEON:



ALBERT L. WEBB
Capt, MSC
Asst Adjutant

Washington National Record Center
Office of the Army Surgeon General
Record Group 112

Accession #: 67A-4511

Box #: 43

File:

Overexposure Fourth U.S. Army