

RADIATION LABORATORY

Location: San Francisco Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, California.

Historical notes: Established by BuShips in November 1946 to deal with the priority problem of decontamination and other work connected with CROSSROADS ex-target and non-target vessels. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery has been closely associated with the establishment of the Laboratory from the very beginning and at one time a majority of the Laboratory personnel were provided by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. A joint BuShips-BuMed letter established policies for technical operations of the Laboratory as it pertains to the two Bureaus. Shortly after, other Bureaus and also interested Army agencies were invited to participate. Since the establishment of the Laboratory, BuMed research relating to biological effects of radiation has been greatly expanded and it is anticipated that the program will continue to expand.

Organization and relationships: A BuShips facility under direct command of the San Francisco Naval Shipyard Commander. The chain of command as related to BuMed participation is through the Officer-in-Charge of the laboratory (a Line Officer) to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard Commander to interested Bureaus or activities. There is close correlation between the participating Bureaus.

Research program: At the present time the work of the Biological Laboratory concerns the evaluation of radiological hazards incident to radioactive contamination of ships. Facilities exist for analysis of biological materials containing radioactive substances. Included in this project are:

1. Clinical radio-chemistry. Largely examination of urine specimens for radioactive contamination. Study of methods.
2. Study of radioactive dust, including skin contact, ingestion, and inhalation.
3. Study of Dosimetry.
4. Facilities are being established for pathological, hematological, and toxicological research.

Personnel: Eight officers. Senior medical officer - a Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy, designated as BuMed Projects Officer. Seventeen enlisted personnel (dosimetrists and laboratory technicians).

Operation Cost F.Y. 1948: BuMed allotment of \$50,000.

Facility value:

Land - BuShips

Buildings - BuShips. Four buildings now being used for medical and biological research. Future plans call for construction of new building for medical department purposes.

Equipment - Provided by BuShips. Yard Medical Officer authorized to provide logistic support which has been done extensively.

Comment: Liaison with Research and Development Board, Atomic Energy Commission, and Office of Naval Research.