



HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
MEDPS-PO

9 October 1961

ARM2.941209.152a

SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

THRU: ~~Commanding General~~
~~Second United States Army~~ 11 OCT 1961
~~ATTN: Surgeon~~ D.M.H.
~~Fort George G. Meade, Maryland~~

TO: Commanding Officer
U. S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency
Army Chemical Center, Maryland

1. DA Message DTG 061300Z October (copy inclosed) indicates that John T. Whalen of your command received a dose of ionizing radiation of 1650 millirems during the period 5 - 30 September 1961.

2. A dose of 1650 millirems is in excess of the permissible total body radiation in four weeks. Should such incidents recur frequently, serious impairment to the health of the individual could result.

3. Request that the cause of this overexposure be investigated and information on the results be forwarded to this office, ATTN: MEDPS-PO.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

1 Incl
as


ADAM J. RAPALSKI
Colonel, MC
Chief, Preventive Medicine Division



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

Accession #: 67A-4511

Box #: 43

File: Over exposure Second U.S. Army

MEDPS-P7

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FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

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ADAM J. RAPALSKI
Colonel, MC
Chief, Preventive Medicine Division

Lloyd C. Mac Murray

For
Roswell G. Daniels
Lt Colonel, MC
Preventive Medicine Division

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M CO LEXINGTONSIGDEP LEXINGTON KY

O RUEPAM/CO USAENVIRONMENTALHYGIENEAGCY ARCMLCEN MD

INFO RUEPDA/TSG DA WASHDC

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OCT 6 19 11 z61

DEPT. ARMY COMM.
EX 56397

OCT 7 352 27
DEPT. OF THE ARMY

MESSAGE CENTER

3:27 AM 1961

UNCLAS LX21474 FOR MEDEI-MR INFO MEDCE-OH FROM SIGDL-4C

ELM NR 009JDA WORN BY PVT-2 JOHN T WHALEN PD OF 5-30 SEP 61 INDC

OSAGE OF 1650 MILLIREMS/1.650 REMS/

IN LX21474 MEDEI-MR MEDCE-OH SIGDL-4C 009JDA PVT-2 5-30 61 1650

LLIREMS/1.650 REMS/

/1759Z RUEPLS

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Col Coschi:

9 Oct 61

Col Kraus discussed this with me on Friday. It appears as though this may be classed as a "prank" or worse. Lexington Signal Depot advised them that this was mixture of gamma, beta and neutron exposure - in almost unbelievable proportions. Will be interested in report - ~~at~~ Mac

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Col Daniels (H) Fall

USAEHA-MR (9 Oct 61) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

It Quillin/sjc/24202

HQ, US Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, ACC, Md. - 27 OCT 1961

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

1. This Agency has investigated the reported overexposure on Pfc John T. Whalen during the period of 5-30 September 1961. The following investigation was performed:

a. A survey of all sources of ionizing radiation on hand at the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency and a check of AEHA personnel that could have had access to sources held at Army Chemical Center.

b. Repeated blood counts on John T. Whalen.

c. Correspondence with Lexington Signal Depot as to type of energy and time of exposure and review of film badge and controls supplied by Lexington Signal Depot.

2. Findings of the investigation are as follows:

a. The sources of ionizing radiation at AEHA consist of a 70 Kvp. X-ray unit, radium, and microcurie standard sources of cobalt and cesium. It is impossible that any of these sources could have been responsible for this exposure since Lexington advises that the energies were above 1 MeV, and of rather short duration since the filter margins are sharp. No person from AEHA has been listed on the logs of Army Chemical Center as having entered an area where Cobalt⁶⁰ sources are stored or used.

b. Blood counts on John T. Whalen are within normal limits.

c. Pfc Whalen is newly assigned to the Agency, and this is his first film badge record. He did not work by himself. All of his work was with one of the experienced health physics personnel of the division. John T. Whalen was not outside of the Agency in any of his duties. However, he did take his film badge to the barracks one weekend and several nights when he forgot to remove the badge from his whites.

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2. Comparison of the film from Lexington and a test film exposed to Cobalt⁶⁰ to the same dose are such that further evaluation of this film is felt to be unnecessary.

3. This Agency believes this represents a film badge overexposure and not a record of the exposure to the individual. The manner of exposure cannot be determined despite a thorough investigation.

1 Incl
wd 1 incl
added 1 incl
2. Ltr SIGDL-4C dtd 9 Oct 61

Charles W. Kraul
CHARLES W. KRAUL
Lt Colonel, MC
Commanding

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