



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
MEDPS-PO

OCT 26 1961

SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

ARM3.941209.134

THRU: ~~Commanding General~~  
~~First United States Army~~ *na*  
~~ATTN: Surgeon~~  
~~Governors Island New York 4, New York~~

TO: Commanding Officer  
Walson Army Hospital  
Fort Dix, New Jersey

1. DA Message DTG 241600Z October (copy inclosed) indicates that SFC Malcolm R. Miller of your command received a dose of ionizing radiation of 32,000 millirems during the period 1 - 31 August 1961.

2. A dose of 32,000 millirems is in considerable 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. If assistance is desired in studying this matter or reviewing your radiological hygiene program, the services of the U. S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency are available upon written request to this office.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

1 Incl  
as

*Roswell G. Daniels*  
ROSWELL G. DANIELS  
Lt. Colonel, MC  
Preventive Medicine Division

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

Accession #: 67A-4511

Box #: 43

File: Overexposure First U.S. Army

COPY

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PP RUEP DA

DE PUEPLS 145

AN R

P M 241600Z

FM CO LEXINGTON SIGDEP LEXINGTON KY

TO RUEPDJ/CO WALSON ARMY HOSP FT DIX NJ

INFO RUEPDA/TSG WASH DC

DA GRNC

BT

UNCLAS LX 23115 FOR SUPPY & SVC DIV, MED OFFICER INFO MEDCE-OH  
FROM SIGDL-4C REF FONECON 24 OCT 61 BETWEEN CAP ABBOTT YOUR OFFICE  
AND JOSEPH KING THIS DEPOT RE OVER EXPOSURE OF FILM. FILM NO. 128BDD  
WORN BY SFC MALCOLM R. MILLER PD OF 1-31 AUG 61 AND RETURNED TO THIS  
OFFICE FOR PROCESSING ON 19 OCT 61 INDC DOSAGE OF 32000 MILLIREMS  
/32.000 REMS/PD

BT

CFN LX 23115 SIGDL-4C 24 61 128BDD 1-31 61 19 61 32000 32.000  
24/2032Z RUEPLS

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M CO LEXINGTON SIGDEP LEXINGTON KY

TO RUEP DJ/CO WALSON ARMY HOSP FT DIX NJ

INFO RUEPDA/TSG WASHDC

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*SGT*

UNCLAS LX 23115 FOR SUPPLY & SVC DIV, MED OFFICER INFO MEDCE-OH  
RCM SIGDL-4C REF FONEC ON 24 OCT 61 BETWEEN CAP ABBOTT YOUR OFFICE  
AND JOSEPH KING THIS DEPOT RE OVER EXPOSURE OF FILM. FILM NO. 128BDD  
ORV BY SFC MALCOLM R. MILLER PD OF 1-31 AUG 61 AND RETURNED TO THIS  
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FN LX 23115 SIGDL-4C 24 61 128BDD 1-31 61 19 61 32000 32.000

4/2032Z RUEPLS



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issue of the new film the old film is returned in reverse process through the same supply channels. These film badges are properly numbered and worn at chest height attached to the smock pocket or collar lapel. At the end of each work period the badges are clipped to a board in the NCOIC's office opposite a number corresponding to the number assigned to the badge and to the person.

5. Further interviews with the dental technicians revealed that one technician assigned to this dispensary, now separated from the service, has expressed "hard feelings" toward the sergeant and that he would get even.

6. Conclusions:

a. The survey by the Radiological Hazard Survey team and subsequent inspections by Preventive Medicine Officer of the dental x-ray equipment and x-ray operations at Medical Processing Dental Section revealed no major discrepancies.

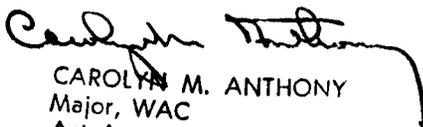
b. There were no significant blood changes present suggestive of excessive exposure to x-ray radiation in MSgt Miller's laboratory tests.

c. The administrative handling of the film badges within the clinic; the limited possibility of exposure due to the sergeant's administrative duties; the continued negative records of exposure to ionizing radiation during the previous 12 months (all the months were 0 except 0.002 in May 1961 and the 32.00 reported for August); consideration of the reported "grudge" incident; the normal hematological reports; eight satisfactory years of duty as a dental technician; and the almost negative history of exposure to ionizing radiation during the past year except for the August incident; leads one to believe that the reading of 32.0 rems obtained in August was the result of malicious exposure of MSgt Miller's film badge by person or persons not named and now separated from military service.

7. MSgt Miller has been placed under a monthly hematological observation for a period of six consecutive months from that of the reported high film badge reading. In the event there are no unexplainable blood changes, MSgt Miller may be reassigned duties associated with dental x-ray operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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CAROLYN M. ANTHONY  
Major, WAC  
Act Asst AG

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AHOMS(26 Oct 61) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY TRAINING CENTER, INFANTRY, Fort Dix,  
New Jersey 13 DEC 1961

TO: Commanding General, First United States Army, ATTN: AHFMS-PM,  
Governors Island, NY 4, NY

1. An investigation was made of the overexposure during the month of August of the x-ray film badge issued to MSGT Malcom Miller, RA 32 247 179, Dental Service Detachment, Fort Dix, N.J. The investigation consisted of a radiation survey of the Dental X-ray Laboratory concerned by the Radiological Hazard Survey team of the Environmental Health Agency of The Surgeon General's Office; hematological studies performed at Walson Army Hospital clinical laboratory on 24 October, 24 November, and 1 December 1961; and personal interviews with MSgt Miller and others associated with the dental x-ray operations and the handling of film badges.

2. The radiation hazard survey of the dental x-ray equipment at the Medical Processing area was accomplished on or about 13 November 1961. The techniques used in performing these examinations were found to conform to those recommended by technical instructions and bulletins. No discrepancies were noted in equipment positioning, anti-radiation barriers for personnel, culmination cones, or room shielding. This information was transmitted by interview to the executive officer of the Fort Dix Health Center by the team chief following the survey. A written report has not been received.

3. Hematological studies on MSgt Miller were made at the clinical laboratory Walson Army Hospital, in October, November and December as noted above. These studies showed no abnormalities in blood constituents, including platelet and white cell counts. Supravital blood staining was not available at Fort Dix.

4. MSgt Miller is assigned to the Dental Dispensary of Medical Processing Section as the NCOIC, and has under his supervision seven (7) individuals engaged in making dental x-rays. His activity is predominately administrative in nature and only on unusual occasions, such as absenteeism of two or more technicians, is he engaged in taking dental x-ray films. The films for the dosimeter badges are issued each month by Walson Army Hospital Supply and Service Division to the Post Dental Supply Officer, who in turn issues the necessary number of films to the various dental clinics. Upon

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AHFMS-PM (26 Oct 61) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

HQ, FIRST U. S. ARMY, Governors Island, New York 4, N. Y.

TO: Commanding General, Fort Dix, ATTN: Surgeon, Fort Dix, N. J. ✓ 1001 1061

1. The overexposure to ionizing radiation referred to in basic communication should receive immediate attention.
2. If it is determined that all exposure measured was received while the badge was physically worn, that individual should be removed from any further exposure to ionizing radiation for an appropriate length of time.
3. Request information on cause of overexposure and, if indicated, the action taken to protect SFC Malcolm R. Miller from further overexposure be forwarded to The Surgeon General, Department of the Army, through this headquarters, ATTN: Surgeon. This information should also be attached to DD 1141, as specified by para 4c, AR 40-414.
4. If changes in arrangement of old equipment or procurement of new equipment capable of producing ionizing radiation have occurred since the last radiological hygiene survey in June 1960, it is recommended that a request for resurvey be initiated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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THOMAS D. COX  
MIL AGC  
Col Adj Gen

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Full

AHFMS-PM (26 Oct 61) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

HQ, FIRST US ARMY, Governors Island, New York 4, N. Y. 8 DEC 1961

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

*Handwritten initials*

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A. D. C.

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