

US DOE ARCHIVES
26 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

COMMANDER NINE FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

FFL-7/30114
F22/A5-12
Ser 3050
17 Dec 1951 COPY

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From: *Commander, Nine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet*
To: *Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet*

OSD1.970319.005

Subj: Radiological defense training

Ref: (a) USF 85

1. The lack of realism and amount of simulation necessary for the conduct of Rad Safe exercises such as prescribed in reference (a) is a matter of concern to COMINPAC.
2. The reports received by COMINPAC of exercises conducted in accordance with reference (a) contain such a paucity of real information as to be valueless. This is not considered to be a fault of the reporting commands but rather is due to the inherent weakness imposed on the exercises by the necessity of excessive simulation. Such comments as "After the simulated shock wave subsided, two men dressed in protective clothing checked the ship with simulated monitoring equipment.", are common. Evaluations based on the time of such simulated monitoring, etc, are, of course, dependent on the whim of the monitor and are without value.
3. In the interest of improving the state of Rad Safe training, which COMINPAC considers to be of utmost urgency, the following measures are proposed for consideration:
 - a. Develop mild radioactive sprays of sufficient radioactivity to register on a geiger counter. These sprays should vary from zero radiation to one of safe exercise strength. This maximum strength to be determined as described below.
 - b. Provide each vessel with a geiger counter with a service scale and with an exercise scale. The exercise scale should be calibrated in such a manner as to register a high lethal concentration when a reading is taken of the maximum strength spray mentioned in subparagraph (a) above, even though such radiation is mild. The exercise scale might possible be made in the form of a decal applied to the cover glass of the meter. In lieu of such a specially calibrated scale, it might be possible to switch the geiger counter to the low scale position and read high scales values.
 - c. Provide each ship with pre-exposed badges.
 - d. Provide personnel with partially charged pocket dosimeters to simulate partial discharge due to radiation.

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4. The above mentioned equipment would be used as follows:

a. Prior to the exercise, the ship would be sprayed in various locations with the radioactive sprays mentioned above. These sprays could be dispensed by means of fison bombs, insecticide sprayers or paint spray guns. The strength of the sprays should vary, probably according to a pattern, from zero radiation to the maximum mentioned above. The use of the zero strength spray would prevent pre-exercise determination of contaminated area.

b. Prior to the exercise pre-exposed film badges and partially charged dosimeters should be issued to personnel.

c. After the simulated A-bomb burst, personnel should take prescribed action. Monitors should actually determine contaminated areas by using the geiger counter with the exercise scale. Decontamination could be effected and actual results observed by remonitoring. Development of film badges and reading of pocket dosimeters would give realistic determination of exposed personnel.

5. It is further recommended that such training as described herein be established at the UTE level until such time as sufficient equipment is available to permit training by individual ships.

6. It is believed that if such equipment as mentioned above is made available, the value of the Rad Safe training will be enhanced many fold.

/s/ J.M. HIGGINS

A.L. WILNER
By direction

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