

NAV1.950227.049

INCOMING ROUTE SHEET
12ND 3945 (REV. 4-53)

MBER

U. S. NAVAL RADIOLOGICAL DEFENSE LABORATORY
SAN FRANCISCO 24. CALIFORNIA

REGISTRY No. 3067840

05878

OUR FILE NUMBER All/Castle-B	THEIR FILE NUMBER C-S90/1-5(348)	SERIAL NUMBER 348-0101	DATE RECEIVED 29 Nov 1955
FROM BUSHIPS			DATE 28 Nov 1955
TO Dr. C. L. Dunham(1) Director, Div. Of Biology & Medicine, US AEC Wash 25, D. C. cy to NRDL			
SUBJECT Proposal for Second Survey of the Marshall Islands; information concerning			
ENCLOSURES one (1) (1) copy of Proposal for Second Survey of the Marshall Islands	NO. COPIES RECEIVED 1		NO. ENCLS. RECEIVED (1)
ENDORSEMENT none			NO. COPIES RECEIVED 0

ACTION

CODE 3-905

CODE	INITIALED		REMARKS
	BY	DATE	
			<i>No ANSWER REQUIRED. THE BUREAU HAS ESSENTIALLY CONTINUED OUR LTR 3-930-0256 OF 1/15/55, BY OMITTING DETAILS.</i>
3-905	RCL	12/2	
3-905B	EMC	12/2	<i>THE ENCL. ALMOST DUPLICATES OUR PROPOSAL, BUT OMITS FV57 REQUIREMENTS. TMRJ 12/1</i>
3-905A	MRJ	12/2	
3-901	MRJ	12/2	
3-700	ALB	1/9/56	
3-930	ERJ	12/30	
3-930A	MRJ	1/6	
3-935	MRJ	1/6	
3-920A	MRJ	1/6	
3-923	SIC	2/8	
3-920	MRJ	2/8	
3-140	MRJ	2/9	

CLASSIFICATION

ROUTE SHEET NUMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

05878 ✓

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*NAVY-MI-DPPO12ND

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IAW OPNAVINST 5513.16
Signature: *James Water* CAPT USN
Code: *N312Q* Date: *8 Feb 95*

28 Nov 1955



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF SHIPS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

All/Catle-B
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IN REPLY REFER TO 3-920
3-140
C-S90/1-5(348)
Ser 348-0101

05070

28 NOV 1955

Dr. C. L. Dunham (1)
Director, Division of Biology and Medicine
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Dunham:

We are enclosing two copies of a proposal for conducting a second survey of Rongelap and other atolls by the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, in reply to your request of 3 October to us. As suggested in your letter, we believe that the survey can be accomplished in February 1956, and we shall plan accordingly.

One complication arises in attempting to provide for the coverage requested in your data sheets. The Laboratory is heavily committed to REDWING, and can only assign five personnel to the field party. However, we believe that the types of measurements and sample collections requested can be adequately covered on the islands to be visited. We propose to conduct the survey from Kwajalein by PBM aircraft or equivalent according to the following schedule:

<u>Atoll</u>	<u>Island</u>	<u>Time Required (days)</u>	<u>Proposed dates</u>
Rongelap	Rongelap	2 (remain overnight)	February 1-2
	Kabelle	1/2	February 3
	Gejen	1/2	February 3
Rongerik	Eniwetok	1	February 4
Uterik	Uterik	2 (remain overnight)	February 5-6
Likiep	Likiep	1	February 7

The proposed dates can be adjusted within the period of 1 February to 21 February, if necessary, to correspond with the availability of logistic support.

In addition to the five Radiological Defense Laboratory personnel, we would appreciate it if you can obtain the assign-

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Code: *N312Q* Date: *8 FEB 95*

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ment of Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg to the field party. We will again attempt to obtain the services of a native Marshallese, Mr. Lakjon Matan, to act as an interpreter. We are planning, therefore, on a minimum of seven persons for the survey.

To avoid any obstacles such as occurred after the first survey, your assistance in obtaining clearance for bringing soil, animal and plant samples through agricultural inspection at Hickam Field, as well as clearance from the Trust Territories of the Pacific, will be helpful.

The requirement for samples to be sent to the Commission's Health and Safety Laboratory will be discussed at a meeting with Dr. Eisenbud in New York during the early part of December.

To conduct this survey, we have estimated that a total of \$4,500.00 will be required from your office, such funds itemized as follows:

Per diem	\$800.00
Overtime	700.00
Equipment and supplies	<u>3,000.00</u>
	\$4,500.00

We would appreciate it if, upon review of the proposal, you would inform us of your decision as early as possible to permit us to formalize our final plans.

Sincerely yours,

F. G. Law, Capt., USN
Head, Research & Development Planning
By direction of Chief of Bureau

Encl:
(1) Proposal for Second Survey of the Marshall Islands (2 copies)

Copy to:
CNO (1) (w/encl (1), one copy)
BUMED (1) (w/encl (1), one copy)
→ NAVRADLDEFLAB (1) (w/encl (1), one copy)

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[REDACTED]

PROPOSAL FOR SECOND SURVEY OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

a. Objective:

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It is proposed that follow-up studies be made of the extent and distribution of CASTLE fallout contamination on Rongelap and other atolls in the Marshall Group by investigating the amount and kind of radioactive contamination in soil, water, animals and plant life for the following purposes:

(1) To provide data upon which a decision can be based as to when the evacuated islands will be safe for occupancy by the former inhabitants

(2) To provide information on the distribution of the contamination on a land area which has been heavily contaminated by fallout.

In order to achieve the objective, it is necessary to determine the amount, location and type of contamination. An unusual opportunity is afforded to study, in an area covered by vegetation, the rates of leaching by rainfall, depths of penetration in soil and the takeup in the food chain. An evaluation of the time over which such contamination renders an area uninhabitable, and the feasibility of decontaminating such areas are of great importance.

b. Approach:

It is proposed that periodic trips be made to the Marshall Islands by U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory personnel and other personnel as recommended by the Division of Biology and Medicine, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, for the purpose of conducting radiological surveys and obtaining samples for analysis. A variety of samples of soil, water, contaminated surfaces, plants, fruits and animals will be obtained from several islands of the atolls of direct interest to the Atomic Energy Commission. Methods of sampling will be investigated to insure that random samples of representative material are obtained.

Radiochemical analyses of the samples will be conducted at the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory with specified duplicate samples furnished to the Health and Safety Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission for analysis.

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c. Background History:

Several shipments of samples of various materials were received from Rongelap Atoll and processed by the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory in connection with Project 4.1 of Operation CASTLE, and procedures for the analyses of such samples were developed. Analysis of the samples showed an increase in levels of radioactive materials in plant samples, with progressive sampling time.

The initial re-survey trip was made to the Marshall Islands during the month of January 1955. This trip was conducted by the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory and the Applied Fisheries Laboratory, University of Washington. The results of this survey were presented in a final report, a draft of which was submitted to the Division of Biology and Medicine, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The proposed schedule, together with the scope of a second survey, is presented in the letter which accompanies this proposal. It is planned to conduct the survey during early February 1956. This trip will be made for the purpose of making radiation surveys and collecting samples of plants, animals, soil and water for laboratory analysis.

d. Fiscal details:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Received</u> FY 55	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Obligations</u> FY 55	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Requirements</u> FY 56
Atomic Energy Commission	3.3M	3.3M	4.5M
Bureau of Ships	38.7M	38.7M	20.0M

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All/Castle-A (All/Castle-B) C-S90/1-5(348) 348-099

21 Nov 1955

BUSHIPS

18 Nov 1955

CO, US Naval Medical Research Institute, National Naval Medical Center,
Bethesda 14, Maryland - cy to NRDL

Proposal for a third medical re-examination of the Marshallese: request for

none

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none

0

3-905

A3-905

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3-121

*R/S not in
book
Pink file
All/Castle A*

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18 Nov 1955

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none

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none

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3-920

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3-121

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18 Nov 1955