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Chief, Special Projects Branch
Division of Radiological Health

Chapter 13 for Test Manager's Report, HARDTACK II

Referring to your memorandum of December 15 transmitting a copy of the above chapter for review and comment, I realize that this reply is too late to meet your December 31 deadline, however, the chapter has been reviewed by us and by Doctor Williams, and we feel that it is perfectly satisfactory.

V.C. Anderson

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. James G. Terrill, Jr., Asst Chief
Div of Radiological Health, USPHS
Washington 25, D. C.

DATE: DEC 17 1958

FROM : Roscoe H. Goeke, Rad-Safety Advisor, OTO
ALO, Albuquerque, New Mexico

SUBJECT: CHAPTER 13 FOR TEST MANAGERS REPORT, HARDTACK II

SYMBOL: TR:RHO-2327

Attached for your review and comments is a draft of Chapter 13 - PHS Medical Officer Liaison Network. We have a deadline of December 31 for submission of this draft; hence an early reply would be appreciated.

To expedite your review, I am forwarding by copy of this memo a copy of the draft to Dr. Ed. Williams for his perusal and comments.

Enclosure
Cy Draft Chapt 13

CC: Dr. Ed. Williams, USPHS, Wash, D. C. w/encl

12/17/58

CHAPTER 13 - PHS MEDICAL OFFICER LIAISON NETWORK

Introduction

13.1. In accordance with the SOP-NTSO Chapter 0701, Plan for Radiobiological Investigations, the Medical Officer Liaison Network was operated during the Operation Hardtack II.

Purpose

13.2. The purpose of the network was:

- (1) To assist the AEC in the prompt investigation of reported incidents and human complaints related to test activities;
- (2) To establish a relationship, or absence thereof, between the individuals' reported symptoms and the test activities;
- (3) To explain the situation to the physician in attendance and to the patient in understandable and acceptable terms;
- (4) To allow a greater number of medical and health personnel to increase their knowledge and experience in radiological health matters.

Personnel

13.3. The personnel for operation of the Network are listed in the SOP-NTSO. The Network coordination was accomplished by a PHS Medical Officer assigned to the Test Manager as a member of his staff. Two medical officers occupied this position. Additional duties of the Coordinator were to serve as advisor to the Test Manager on medical matters related to radiation and as the Off-Site Medical Officer.

Operations

13.4. During the Hardtack II Operation all inquiries and requests for investigations were directed for action to the NTSO. Because the series produced very little fallout off-site, the incidents and complaints that reached the Coordinator were not operation Hardtack II connected.

Investigations

13.5. A woman in California had previously written a number of letters to the AEC, Albuquerque Operations Office, claiming that she suffered a skin condition which was caused by radioactive fallout from the weapons testing program. The Coordinator established contact with the Region IX Liaison Officer and subsequently visited the woman and her physician. The investigation showed that the woman previously had had cancer of the throat and received both surgery and therapeutic X-ray treatments. The Coordinator did not consider radioactive fallout to blame for her condition, and the OTO advised her that as a result of this investigation they would not honor her claim for damages.

13.6. A resident of Las Vegas was disturbed for fear that her child, at one time had a tentative diagnosis of heart trouble and was presently suffering from asthma, might be receiving damaging amounts of radiation from test activities. The woman seemed honestly concerned and earnest in her wish to have information as to whether or not the amounts of radiation from the nuclear tests series were of health significance to the community and in particular to her son. This was discussed with

her by the Coordinator. She was gratified to learn the true situation and that there was no justification for her to plan on leaving the Las Vegas area.

13.7. The Coordinator was asked to discuss the case of a former REECO employee with his attending physician. This person was recovering from hepatitis with tonsillitis and glomerulo-nephritis and there had been some question of radiation or heavy metal poisoning as etiological factors. A review of the case with the doctor indicated that neither radiation or heavy metal poisoning played a part in the patients present condition. The result of this investigation was reported to the Manager of the Radiological Safety and Technical Services Department of Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Company.

13.8. During Hardtack II, the complaint of a former employee of Holmes & Narver at Eniwetok Proving Ground was brought to the attention of OTO. This person was suffering from acute aplastic anemia and his physician had rendered an opinion that the condition might be caused from exposure to radiation. The Coordinator visited the attending physician, the patient's lawyer, and the patient himself. Further, the Coordinator testified at an informal hearing in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Employees, Compensation Commission, attended by the patient, the carrier, the attorneys for both sides, and the Deputy Commissioner. On the basis of this hearing and a note by a pathologist to the effect that the patient's condition was consistent with poisoning by volatile hydrocarbons, the lawyer decided not to press a radiation damage claim.

Conclusions and Recommendations

13.8. The Medical Liaison Officer Network continued to operate successfully in investigating incidents and inquiries before they became of news importance. No newsworthy stories of radiation injuries or incidents arose during the series.

13.9. The Network Coordinator and the Off-Site Medical Officer responsibilities rested with one individual during this operation. This philosophy of close cooperation between these two groups should be continued.

13.10. The Medical Liaison Officer Network should be continued in operation and be available to the Test Manager during any future test series as well as the interia periods.