

SWPDF-0

9 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Branch, Weapons Defense Division

SUBJECT: Letter of 2 Dec 52 from Veterans Administration Concerning  
Armed Forces Policy on Records of Radiological Exposures

1. With reference to our discussion of yesterday afternoon, upon re-reading the subject letter again this morning, I find that I am more uncertain than ever as to what is really meant by the last paragraph. Please try to find out by telephone from Dr. Lyon:

- a. When the Veterans Administration urges "that no change in present policies and practices within the Armed Forces be made", does this mean that, for the time being, the VA does feel that all the Armed Services should continue to maintain detailed statistical records of radiological exposures, under wartime as well as peacetime conditions?
- b. Is the wording of the second page of Mr. Gray's letter intended to be a polite request for AFSWP to take the initiative in bringing these various parties together, or does the VA intend to do so?

2. In connection with the above questions, you will note that our letter of 8 August 1952 did not say that the Army had eliminated this procedure; it merely stated that the Army Field Forces "is proposing" to eliminate the requirement. I understand that final promulgation of this elimination has not yet been made by the Army. If the VA letter means that they would view this with considerable alarm, are we not obligated to bring this to the attention of the Army at once, and thus avoid possible later confusion or complaint on this point? This might even affect the Army's final decision in this matter. I assume that this would merely mean holding off final Army action until the "careful study of this matter" proposed by the VA could be made.

*RAH*  
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CAPT., USN  
Chief, Weapons Defense Division

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