



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
ARMSTRONG LABORATORY (AFMC)
BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD TO AL/AOE (Major S. Mitchell)

7 MAR 1994

FROM: AL/OERT (c/o AL/OEVP)

Brooks AFB TX 78235-5118

SUBJECT: Human Radiation Research-Action Memorandum from Col G. J. Merritt dated 2 March 1994

1. Regarding the queries in the Action Memorandum mentioned above, I telephoned Col J. E. Pickering on 5 March 1994 to clarify as many points as possible.
2. In paragraph 1 of his memorandum, Col Merritt requested documentation to support the statement that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was the lead agent in the whole-body radiation study co-sponsored by the USAF at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. Col Pickering told me that in those days (up to the early 1960's) there was a "merger of funds" between the AEC and the Department of Defense and the office was called the Division of Military Applications; a subdivision of that Division on Weapons helped to fund weapons testing. In addition, the Civil Effects Test Group of the AEC (now FEMA) also merged resources with the USAF. The objectives of much research supported by these combined resources had to do not only with the effects of nuclear weapons but also (probably) with possible adverse effects on crew members of nuclear-powered aircraft (e.g., Nuclear Energy Propelled Aircraft (NEPA)). Dr Robert Corsby coordinated some of these efforts among AEC labs, including Oak Ridge and Los Alamos, and the USAF. The majority of research projects dealt with animals, not humans. As far as the USAF relationship with MD Anderson is concerned, I believe the USAF supported at least one young resident physician in radiation therapy/radiation oncology near the time the human radiation experiment was performed. As far as any USAF contract(s) with the MD Anderson are concerned, Col Pickering could not recall a specific contract, but we may be to discover a contract number if we go through the reports in the Hangar Nine Museum at Brooks AFB. As of now, I have not been able to spare the time to do the search myself due to long-term experimental commitments which are impossible to postpone.
3. In paragraph 3, Col Merritt mentions the comment in my 18 Jan 94 memorandum regarding USAF support to the Universities of Chicago and Rochester. Col Pickering confirmed such support, but stated that experiments supported by the USAF at those universities were NOT on humans; all were on animals. At Rochester, there was no USAF support from the USAF at all from the mid-1940's to the mid-1960's. At Chicago, the University of Chicago Air Force Laboratory was started in the 1950-1951 time frame, and was headed by Dr Kenneth DuBois with the help of Dr Guyling. That laboratory was primarily a toxicology laboratory before and after USAF support existed there.
4. Any further questions may be addressed to Col Pickering at 505-828-0421 (mountain time zone) or to me at 210-536-3554 (DSN 240-3554).

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cc: AL/OE (Col E. Vermulen)

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