



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DASG-PSP-E

20 March 1979

SUBJECT: Medical Follow-up on Rongerik Personnel Exposed to Fallout,
March 1954

Director
Defense Nuclear Agency
ATTN: Biomedical Advisor
Washington, DC 20305

Transmitted herewith is the available information on subject follow-up.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

1 Incl
as

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ARMY PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO FALLOUT
ON RONGERIK-SHOT CASTLE BRAVO - 1 MARCH 1954

- Personnel

- Three Army personnel (plus 25 Air Force personnel) exposed to fallout beginning approximately 1400-1430 hours, 1 March 1954.

- Estimated dose to Army personnel from single film badge on tent pole was 98 rem.

- Evacuated to Kwajalein on 2 March 1954.

- Kwajalein

- Personnel, evacuation planes and crews were subjected to a thorough decontamination procedure.

- Each man took from 5 to 11 showers on 2 March.

- Skin decontamination continued over several days.

- Personnel ordered to Tripler Army Hospital on 29 April 54 for medical observation.

- Tripler Army Hospital

- Detailed records lost in St Louis fire.

- From a single remaining Air Force medical record, care consisted of:

- - radioanalysis of urine, feces and blood

- - Treatment of skin irritations

- - Psychological consultation

- - Ophthalmologic examination

- - Surgical consultation

- - General physical examination

- - Complete dental examination
- - Routine hematology and urine analysis
- From Brookhaven National Laboratory Report BNL 50220(T-562), the American servicemen were returned to duty in view of the generally negative findings.
- Subsequent follow-up
 - Army personnel included in Air Force follow-up letter in late 1970 or early 1971 at the request of DOD. Letter suggested that they seek medical advice at VA hospitals.
 - No further follow-up until current NTPR effort
 - Medical results of Air Force personnel still on active duty at the time were normal.
 - One Army individual died of suicide in 1967.