

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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DATE: January 29, 1953

FROM : Gordon M. Dunning, Biophysics Branch *GMD*  
Division of Biology and Medicine

SUBJECT: MEETING AT AFSWP CONCERNING RADSAFE AT THE NPG

SYMBOL: EMBP:GMD

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On January 27, 1953, I attended a meeting at AFSWP at the invitation of Lt. Col. Philip Gwynn concerning the organization and administration of the RadSafe unit at NPG for UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE. By the nature of the meeting and the organizations represented, I was happy to be present but not as an active participant.

Those in attendance were:

Lt. Col. Philip Gwynn, AFSWP  
 Lt. Col. James Hartgering, AFSWP  
 Col. W. W. Campbell, AFSWP  
 Lt. Col. Thomas Collison, Sandia Base  
 Lt. Col. Milbourn, Chemical Corps  
 Maj. McWilliams, Chemical Corps  
 Maj. Cook, Chemical Corps  
 Maj. William Campbell, Chemical Corps  
 Mr. James Terrell, Public Health  
 Maj. Lulejian, Air Force

The final organization for the RadSafe unit had been agreed upon but at this time the following individuals have been assigned their duties as indicated:

Lt. Col. Collison - RadSafe Director  
 Maj. Lulejian - RadSafe Control Section (this section is somewhat similar to the one in operation for TUMBLER-SNAPPER but with expanded functions and authority. Major Lulejian will be an advisor for the first few weeks, after which the section will be turned over to another man.)  
 Lt. Col. Milbourn - C.O., Provost Unit  
 Maj. McWilliams - on site  
 Mr. William Johnson (Los Alamos) - off site  
 - Logistics

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Collison seems to be a competent man but suffers from the lack of experience. He is one of the military three-year graduates of the nuclear physics course but apparently has had limited experience in radiological safety during weapons tests. I believe the meeting was somewhat of an eye-opener for him in respect to the many varied problems associated with operating the RadSafe unit at NPG.

Radiological safety for Desert Rock troupes will be handled as an independent activity under the leadership of a Major Cook who will be stationed permanently at Desert Rock. They will even process their own film badges separately in a trailer truck (Hartgering indicated to me informally that he understood the DOD had approved a 10-roentgen dose for military participants during UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE).

One of their big problems is manpower. They will just be able to meet their requirements for UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE. In this connection there was some discussion about the Military's continuing to operate RadSafe on a permanent basis. Again, the problem hinges on their ability to meet future personnel demands.

Collison is planning to have about twelve two-men teams for off-site monitoring. Hartgering and Lulejian strongly recommended that this number be increased to provide adequate coverage of such a large area. Since this off-site monitoring directly affects AEC and its public relations, I seconded this recommendation.

All of the necessary instruments are not on hand; specifically, there is a shortage of GM meters and 0-5 r personnel dosimeters. The latter could be borrowed from Los Alamos but Collison indicated a reluctance to do so. At this point Collison expressed some fears as to the role that Los Alamos might play in their relations with the operations of the RadSafe unit. Specifically, he did not wish to be placed in the position of having his organization "inspected" by members of H-Division. The group as a whole, however, did not feel that Collison needed to worry about this relationship.

AFSWP is still quite unhappy about the organization of the off-site monitoring which will be under William Johnson of Los Alamos. They feel that AEC has asked them to do a job (operate the RadSafe unit) and that they should have a completely free hand in meeting their responsibilities so long as the information required by AEC was obtained to the latter's satisfaction. I think I am expressing adequately their opinion by stating that they would prefer to do the whole RadSafe job, including the off-site monitoring. This is in contradiction somewhat to their admitted problem of finding a sufficient number of personnel to carry on the RadSafe operations other than off-site monitoring. They are not in

sympathy with the air-sampling program but would be willing to continue it, under their own supervision, if the AEC specifically requested it. There was also some concern expressed about the Public Health people participating in the off-site monitoring. According to a letter from the Surgeon General of Public Health to Mr. M. W. Boyer, the Public Health people have clearly stated that their understanding of the conditions under which they agree to participate will include an active role in the planning and conduct of the off-site monitoring activities. AFSWP did not feel that they understood clearly just what this implied but were concerned that such participation might conflict with the prerogatives of Collison as RadSafe director.

Aside from the meeting itself, I met with Colonel Collison and we mutually agreed upon certain data that he would transmit to the Division of Biology and Medicine for the permanent exposure records following UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE. He asked that the request for this data be made in the form of a letter. Colonel Gwynn and Colonel Collison stated their intention of sending a letter listing exposures to only those home organizations represented by a relatively large number of individuals. Also, they stated that the film badges themselves would be stored with AFSWP. They questioned the value of this procedure but stated that if in the future they decided to dispose of them, the Division of Biology and Medicine would be so notified.

GMD:mlh

CC: Dr. Bugher  
Dr. Claus