

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILES

DATE: January 6, 1953

FROM : Gordon M. Dunning, Biophysics Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine *gmd*SUBJECT: REVIEW OF REQUEST FROM DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE TO AFSWP FOR  
MILITARY SUPPORT OF FALLOUT PROGRAMS.

SYMBOL: EMBP:GMD

1. I called Captain Bluejacket in the Office, Chief Chemical Officer, Washington, D. C., in September requesting certain military support since this was the avenue by which we obtained support during TUMBLER-SNAPPER. Capt. Bluejacket indicated their inability to meet the request and suggested we write to the Commanding General, AFSWP Field Command, Sandia Base, New Mexico.
2. October 1. On October 1, 1952, a letter was sent from Dr. Bugher to the Commanding General, Field Command, AFSWP, Sandia Base, New Mexico, requesting thirty-two (32) enlisted men for UCLA fallout program.
3. October 8. On October 8 Colonel Paul T. Preuss wrote Dr. Bugher acknowledging his letter of October 1, indicating he had referred the letter to Dr. John C. Clark, and that further details would be handled directly between Dr. Clark and Kermit Larson. This is the last heard from this request until about the middle of December (see para. 14).
4. October 16. On October 16 W. B. Harris of NYOO submitted their requirements to the Division of Biology and Medicine for military support.
5. October 23. On October 23 I wrote to Gen. K. E. Fields submitting NYOO's requirements.
6. October 24. On October 24 I wrote Carroll L. Tyler requesting the NYOO program be continued under his office and requesting certain logistic support.
7. October 28. On October 28 our memorandum to Gen. Fields was transmitted by Col. Jack Armstrong to Carroll Tyler.

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8. November 24. On November 24 J. E. Reeves wrote to me indicating that our memorandums of October 23 to Gen. Fields and October 24 to Mr. Tyler had been received by him and that "informal information indicates that the support can be made available."
9. December 1. On December 1 Merrill Eisenbud wrote to me listing the specific requirements for support of their program.
10. December 9. On December 9 I wrote J. E. Reeves indicating the specific requirements for the NYOO operations.
11. December 10. On December 10 J. E. Reeves wrote to me and briefly discussed the manner of financing the cost of travel and per diem for "32 military personnel requested to support the UCLA project and for the officer, 16 enlisted men and flight crews requested to support the NYOO monitoring operation."
12. Dec. 16. On December 16 J. E. Reeves wrote to me attaching a copy of a letter dated December 11 from Col. Paul Preuss to Carroll L. Tyler. Preuss' letter dealt only with the NYOO request, indicating certain steps were being accomplished to fulfill the request, including the fact that 16 enlisted men and one officer were being requested from AFSWP.
13. December 18. On December 18 J. E. Reeves wrote to the Commanding General, Field Command, AFSWP, Sandia Base, transmitting a copy of my memorandum to him wherein the specific details of NYC requirements were made.
14. About the middle of December Col. Philip Gwynn of AFSWP called me and said that they had received both of the requests for support of the NYOO and UCLA programs. He indicated that it was the consensus of their opinion that this request did not have sufficient military justification for approving and that further justification had been requested of Col. Preuss. He suggested that it would be wise for Col. Hartgering and himself come over to discuss the situation with us.
15. December 24. On December 24 Cols. Hartgering and Gwynn conferred with Drs. Bugher, Claus and Dunning. At this meeting Col. Gwynn strongly recommended that we appeal to Admiral Parker directly for approval of our request for military support. There was considerable discussion concerning the validity and necessity of the air sampling program. It was the conclusion of the Division of Biology and Medicine that this air sampling program must be continued for the next series of tests.

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16. December 30. On December 30 Dr. Jack Clark discussed this problem with representatives from the Division of Biology and Medicine in Washington. It was Dr. Clark's feeling that such request between AEC and DCD had been mutually honored in the past and that he did not think there would be any problem of AFSWP's granting the current request.

17. January 2. On January 2 Col. Gwynn called me and said they had received a reply from Col. Preuss but the justification indicated in Preuss' letter was unsatisfactory to AFSWP and that if further justification was not forthcoming at once, a letter of disapproval for the request would be initiated by him for Admiral Parker's signature. Col. Gwynn again urged that representatives from the Division of Biology and Medicine make a direct, personal and immediate appeal to Admiral Parker. By then it had become quite apparent that the issue could grow into something more serious than the request for forty-eight enlisted men and one officer. Therefore, I told Col. Gwynn that before we took any further action I would like to call Dr. Clark at LASL, inform him of the present status of the problem and hear his desires about proceeding.

18. On January 2 I called Dr. Clark at LASL but he had not returned at that time. I again called Dr. Clark on January 5 and informed him of the latest developments. He agreed to check with Dr. Alvin Graves and Col. Preuss and to call back later the same day. When he returned the call on January 5 he indicated that the problem was not as simple as he had imagined and that after discussing the situation with Mr. Tyler, Mr. Tyler would probably contact AFSWP.

19. January 6. On January 6 Dr. Bugher received a call from Brig. Gen. Alvin R. Luedecke. I do not know the exact conversation which ensued but Dr. Bugher indicated the problem would probably be resolved with AFSWP granting our request for military support of both the NYOC and UCLA programs.

CC: Dr. Bugher  
Dr. Claus

GHD:mlh