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22 April 1954

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From: Project Officer, Project 4.1, JTF-7
To: Commander, Joint Task Force Seven

Subj: Medical team for investigation of human atomic bomb casualties;
proposal for establishment of

1. Current experience of Project 4.1, JTF-7 demonstrates the need for the establishment of an experienced group that can proceed immediately to any part of the world for the clinical and research study of human radiation casualties in the field.
2. Fortunately when the need arose remnants of InMed Unit #1 from Operation Greenhouse that were experienced in the study of radiation injury were still easily available within the continental limits. This group was designated, equipment packed and ready to move within 36 hours. Such rapid action would have been impossible without officer and enlisted personnel who were experienced in field work, appreciated the complexities of the problem, and were deeply interested in the human aspects.
3. Subject group has performed many thousand serial hematological studies at a research level with a minimal statistical error on 113 moderately exposed individuals, 157 lightly exposed, and a combined total of 297 American and Marshallese control individuals. In addition daily clinical observations and routine sick call were held for 298 Marshallese and Americans. With the assistance of Task Unit 8, serial color photography of all skin lesions has been performed. With the assistance of the Naval Dispensary, serial skin biopsies were obtained.
4. In the opinion of the Project Officer this group was able to function so effectively without the prolonged preparation and planning which usually precedes field work only because most members of the group had worked together in the field at Operations Crossroad, Greenhouse, Tumbler Snapper, and Upshot Kneothole on comparable studies in animals and because of the superb morale and motivation of all concerned.
5. Since a hazard from unexpected fall-out exists and since it is impractical to maintain a large group of highly skilled technicians, scientists, and physicians in standby status whenever testing of atomic weapons is in progress, it is proposed that a group be designated by name, that would be on duty at various medical research institutes, and would be available for immediate use in time of need. Such a group would be of little value unless it consisted largely of experienced personnel who had worked together in the past and who were properly motivated.

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6. The following named officer, enlisted men and civilians of the U.S. Navy are proposed as professional and technical personnel to be immediately available.

Dugene P. CRICKITE	CDR MC USN	153090
Robert A. COLEMAN	CDR MC USN	110000
Edwin R. EHELMAN	LT MC USN	542587
Richard S. FARR	LT MC USN	240066
Victor P. BOND	MC Ptd	NRFL
Stanton H. COHN	Ptd	NRFL
Robert BEARP	LTJG ESC USN	532678
Clyde R. SIMP	ENS USN	321042
Paul L. SCHUB	ENS USN	3369257
Cloyce P.A. STROME	ENS USN	6223950
James K. CAESIDY	ENS USN	
William H. GIBB	ENS USN	2916441
James S. OTTO	ENS USN	2582793
Pearl R. THOMPSON	ENS USN	3371605
Robert W. REAVIS	ENS USN	2681996
William G. CLUTTER	ES1 USN	6533972
Ralph E. HANSELL	ES1 USN	7240703
Jefferson H. HARRY	ES2 USN	6059499

In addition at least one radiation pathologist and one internist should be available if needed.

7. The above group might well be bolstered by professional and technical help from other services and the AEC since the bulk of biomedical work during testing of atomic weapons has been done by the Medical Department of the U.S. Navy.

8. Experience of Project 4.1 definitely indicates the need for administrative and supply personnel familiar with problems of operating within a Joint Task Force in remote areas. For this purpose LCDR Lauren J. SMITH ESC USN and William J. BARAK 328 75 69 ENS USN are superbly qualified.

9. Many of above personnel are now ready for transfer to other duty stations where they would not be available if the need arose.

10. It is reiterated that Project 4.1 was able to function so efficiently only because of past experience in working together, high morale, and personal interest in the problems concerned.

11. This problem in general will be discussed with the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department and Chief, Division Biology and Medicine AEC upon return to Washington.

E. P. CRICKITE
CDR MC U.S. Navy

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