

X C to Ned Baras *Chm*



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Capt. Robert G. Walter, MC USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Research Institute
Bethesda, MD 20889-5607

Dear Sir:

I was the project officer for project 4.1 Operation Castle JTF-7. This project was concerned with the study of the American military personnel and the Marshallese accidentally exposed to fallout radiation on 1 March 1954. At the time I was Head of Hematology, NMRI. I resigned from Medical Corps, U.S.N. effective October 1, 1954 and accepted a position in the Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Our records, orders, logs, directives and reports were classified Secret-Restricted Data. Upon transfer of the program from NMRI to Medical Dept., BNL in 1955, the clinical and laboratory records were transferred also. Other records such as the daily logs, personnel orders, communications between project 4.1 and Commander JTF-7 were retained at NMRI.

As a result of recent decisions by the Secretary of Energy, Hazel O'Leary, these records are now of considerable importance.

I recall vaguely that in late 50's or early 60's the Security Officer, NMRI called me to see if we could transport and safely store these records classified Secret-Restricted Data. This was deemed not possible, and I was told that the records would probably be burned.

This letter is to enquire if perchance these records may have been retained at NMRI or transferred elsewhere.

I served in USN from May 1942 to October 1, 1954 and was at NMRI from January 1946 to September 30, 1954 and continued thereafter in Medical Corps USNR retiring as Rear Admiral in 1974.

If located, they would be of substantial value to the Department of Energy that is now trying to reconstruct what happened on March 1, 1954 and thereafter.

Sincerely,

Eugene P. Cronkite, M.D.

EPC/jt