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AEC 597/46

September 13, 1954

COPY NO. 18

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.4

By HR-m/LCD Date 10/9/97

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

CLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
RADIATION EXPOSURE OF WEATHER PERSONNEL DURING CASTLE

Note by the Acting Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached correspondence be circulated for the information of the Commission.

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park
COLLECTION RG 326, 51-58 Secretary
BOX No. 200 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER S * I 2-1 Classification Vol. 1

W. B. McCool
Acting Secretary

WITH ATTACHMENTS/ENCL

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>5/5/95</u>	1. CLASSIFICATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <u>DAOC, DAOC, DAOD</u>	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>CR. Williams</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>5-11-95</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: <u>ADD</u>	4. COORDINATE WITH: <u>DRH</u>
NAME: <u>DRH</u>	5. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPELCHY):

DISTRIBUTION	COPY NO.
Secretary	1
Commissioners	2 - 6, 21
General Manager	7
Asst. Gen. Mgr. R&ID	8
General Counsel	9 - 10
Biology & Medicine	11
Classification	12
Information	13
Military Application	14 - 16
Security	17
Secretariat	18 - 20

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized disclosure is subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Sec. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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ENCLOSURE I

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 10, 1954

Commander
Joint Task Force SEVEN
12th and Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The following information is furnished as a basis upon which the Joint Task Force may prepare a reply to the letters from Corporals and dated July 2, 1954 and June 24, 1954, respectively.

Items in subparagraphs a, b, and e of paragraph 3 of the above letters are considered unclassified information. Item 3d is classified as Confidential, Restricted Data and may be discussed only with properly cleared personnel. Item 3f is at present being treated as Confidential information by the Surgeon General, U. S. Army who has custody of the clinical records of the personnel in question. The Atomic Energy Commission has no objection to downgrading item 3f to unclassified if competent authority desires to do so.

In connection with item 3c, the Atomic Energy Commission believes that much information concerning the actions taken by 7.4 to evacuate personnel from Eniwetok is unclassified. However, it is undoubtedly true that certain details with which the Commission is not familiar may be of a classified nature. It is believed that with respect to this operational aspect of the problem, the Task Force is in a much better position than the Commission to evaluate matters of classification. The Commission would, of course, be pleased to assist in any manner that we may on this point.

It is suggested that any reply which is directed to Corporals and be forwarded through the Commanding General of the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories at Fort Monmouth under whose command the 9471 TSU is understood to operate. As a means of protecting Corporals and from inadvertently divulging classified information to their uncleared civilian

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BY ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
BY ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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counsel and to assure that the information which is divulged is in fact accurate, the Atomic Energy Commission recommends that the Task Force weigh the advisability of suggesting that these individuals submit in writing for Atomic Energy Commission - Department of Defense review the precise information which they propose to make available.

The Commission would appreciate being informed of your action in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

K. D. Nichols
General Manager

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radiation exposure of United States weather personnel during CASTLE is forwarded for your signature as recommended by the Division of Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Bugher has previously discussed with the Chairman the possibility of legal action by Corporals and (the two weather personnel concerned). Although it is not known on what basis they might bring a suit against the United States, the repercussions that legal action might generate are considered to be of sufficient significance that this matter should be brought to the attention of the Commissioners.

/s/

K.E. Fields
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Military Application

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- 3 -

Enclosure II

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ENCLOSURE III

HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
Washington 25, D.C.

J-2/201.3

16 August 1954

SUBJECT: Classification Information

TO : Director of Military Application
United States Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Reference is made to the following letters.
 - a. Letter from Cpl. _____ to Classification Officer, dated 2 July 1954, requesting Classification Information.
 - b. Letter from Cpl. _____ to Classification Officer, dated 2 July 1954 requesting Classification Information.
 - c. Letter from Dr. Ralph Carlisle Smith to Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, dated 6 August 1954, subject: Classification Information.
2. Reference 1a and 1b above were received in this headquarters by third indorsement from Headquarters, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project. They were forwarded under cover letter to Dr. Ralph Carlisle Smith, Joint Task Force SEVEN Classification Officer for information on which to base reply.
3. Upon the suggestion of Dr. Smith, basic correspondence with indorsements thereto, together with letter from Dr. Smith is forwarded for your information and reply to reference 1a and 1b. If desired, this headquarters will prepare reply to reference 1a and 1b upon receipt of necessary information from you.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/

H.M. BARR
CWO USA
Asst Adj Gen

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ENCLOSURE IV

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

In Reply
Refer to: CLT-549

August 6, 1954

Commander
Joint Task Force 7
Washington 25, D.C.

Subject: CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION
CORPORAL

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith the file on the above-identified subject.

In my opinion, all of the questions may be answered without involving information affecting the national defense. However, the entire subject has been taken over by the Atomic Energy Commission as a matter of policy. I make this statement based on conversations with Dr. Bugher while at Eniwetok. Therefore, I suggest that you submit the correspondence to General Field, Director, Military Application of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Ralph Carlisle Smith

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ENCLOSURE V

HEADQUARTERS
 9471st TECHNICAL SERVICE UNIT
 FORT MONMOUTH IONOSPHERE DETACHMENT
 WATSON AREA
 FORT MONMOUTH NEW JERSEY

2 July 1954

SUBJECT: Classification Information *
 TO: Classification Officer
 Atomic Energy Commission
 Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories
 Los Alamos, New Mexico
 THROUGH: Channels

1. The undersigned, Corporal participated in Operation CASTLE, conducted by Joint Task Force Seven, Task Group 71., Task Unit 13, Project 6.6, during the period 1 January 1954 to 15 May 1954.

2. During the course of my activities on Operation CASTLE, I was stationed on Eniwetak Island of Rongerik Atoll. On 1 March 1954 while I was on Eniwetak Island, I was subjected to radioactive fall out as a result of the thermonuclear explosion of 1 March 1954.

3. I would like to know if the following incidents are now considered unclassified, and if it is permissible for me to discuss them with civilian counsel:

a. That I was stationed on Eniwetak Island of Rongerik Atoll at time of radioactive fall out.

b. The amount of time spent on the island from the beginning of fall out to the evacuation from same.

c. The events, details, and actions taken by Task Group 7.4 and those in authority on Eniwetak Island of Rongerik Atoll concerning the evacuation of personnel from said island.

d. The amount of radioactivity the island was subjected to during the period 1 March 1954 to 3 March 1954.

e. The evacuation destination and the medical action taken.

f. The amount of radioactive contamination exposure recorded on my medical records.

/s/

Cpl.

Secretariat Note: * Similar letter received from Cpl.

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1st Ind

Headquarters, 9471st Technical Service Unit, Fort Monmouth
Ionosphere Detachment, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey 12 July 1954

THROUGH: Channels

TO: Commander, Task Unit 13, AFSWP, Sandia Base, New Mexico

Forwarded for necessary action.

/s/

ALBERT GIROUX
Capt. SigC
Commanding

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