Fact Sheet

Defense Threat Reduction Agency
U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction
Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Elimination

Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program
(Toll Free Helpline: 800-462-3683)

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is the Department of Defense (DOD) executive Agent for the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program, which serves veterans who participated in U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests, served with the U.S. occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, or were prisoners of war in Japan at the conclusion of World War II. The primary purpose of the NTPR Program is to provide participant data and radiation dose information for veterans. Since its inception in 1978, the NTPR Program has identified approximately 550,000 DOD personnel as participants in four missions: 1) post-World War II occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; 2) prisoners of war in Japan at the conclusion of World War II; 3) participants of U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests (1945 - 1962), conducted primarily in Nevada and the Pacific Ocean; and 4) participants of U.S. underground nuclear testing between (1951 - 1992), conducted primarily in Nevada.

Mission

The NTPR Program has four elements designed to assist veterans by: 1) providing participant and radiation dose information; 2) conducting historical records research; 3) performing veteran outreach, and 4) supporting independent scientific studies. All of these elements are designed to assist veterans who participated, to help the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) in responding to claims, and to provide information to veterans who are concerned about the possible health effects associated with participation in U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing.

Participant and Dose Information

The first mission element of the NTPR Program is to provide participation and radiation dose information to support medical and compensation programs administered by VA (http://www.va.gov) and DOJ (http://www.usdoj.gov). When requested by VA or DOJ, the NTPR Program draws upon the results of extensive historical research, technical information, and veteran input to provide participation data and radiation dose information. The VA and DOJ are solely responsible for determining the service-connection of disabilities and the administration of benefits. The NTPR Program plays no role in the administration of the VA or DOJ programs or the adjudication of claims.

The NTPR Program also ensures that veterans can obtain access to documents concerning U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests and the occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When available, film badge data is used to establish radiation dose levels. In instances where film badge data is not available or where film badges are not capable of measuring all of the radiation contributions that comprise a total dose (e.g., internal and neutron doses), scientific techniques are used to provide VA with a calculated radiation dose for claim adjudication. For example, because Japanese prisoners of war did not have film badges, their doses must be calculated to account for potential radiation exposure. About 45 percent of U.S. atmospheric nuclear test participants have

8725 John J. Kingman Road • Stop 6201 • Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6201
Phone: (703) 767-5870 • DSN: 427-5870 • Fax: (703) 767-4450 • Website: www.dtra.mil

some film badge data. Individual dose reconstructions are based on evaluations of records from all sources and any available statements, questionnaires, or interviews concerning the veteran's activities.

In 1985, the NTPR dose reconstruction methodology was published after a period of public comment in Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 218 (32 CFR 218). Since then, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) (http://www.gao.gov) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) (http://www.nas.edu) have performed several reviews of the scientific methods used by the NTPR Program, most recently in 2003. The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress, chartered to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government in an independent and nonpartisan fashion. The NAS is a private, non-profit organization chartered by Congress to advise the federal government on scientific and technical matters. For more information, see the NTPR Program: Program Reviews and Scientific Studies fact sheet on DTRA's webpage.

Historical Records Research

The second mission element of the NTPR Program involves comprehensive research of the broadest scope. Over 100 archives nationwide have been researched for relevant information. The program has located, retrieved, declassified, and preserved records pertaining to U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests. More than 40 historical volumes and 25 analytical reports have been developed to provide details of each test and operation. These records are diverse in nature and are vital in documenting participation activities and establishing radiation dose levels. The documentation includes service and medical records, film badge records, pocket dosimeter logs, test program documents and technical reports, special orders, muster rolls, unit memoranda, ship deck logs, morning reports, flight logs, personal accounts, diaries, and other relevant papers. Although the majority of the archival research effort was completed prior to 1984, the NTPR Program continues to seek and obtain new information from all available sources.

Public Outreach

The third mission element of the NTPR Program is to provide a public outreach service to veterans and their families, including appointed representatives. This outreach includes personal contact with veterans and mass media announcements to locate atomic veterans and publicize the availability of services such as the VA's health care and entitlement programs. The NTPR toll-free helpline (800-462-3683) was created in 1978 and continues to facilitate direct contact by veterans. The helpline has handled over 102,000 calls since its inception, and the NTPR Program has completed over 215,000 correspondence actions in response to veterans, their families, Congress, Federal agencies, and the media.

A 41-volume summary of each U.S. atmospheric nuclear test operation was developed and made available to 700 public libraries throughout the United States as well as to VA. The Nuclear Testing Archive, a repository for over 300,000 nuclear test era documents, has been established in Las Vegas, Nevada, for public use. Additionally, the NTPR Reading Room in Reston, Virginia, contains about 500 linear feet of reference information for public review. The public can also access basic NTPR information and other associated internet sites through DTRA's webpage.

Scientific Studies Support

The final element of the NTPR Program is the support of independent scientific studies to ascertain whether U.S. atmospheric nuclear test participants have experienced adverse health effects as a result of their participation. The NTPR Program has supported NAS studies to determine whether there is an increased incidence of radiogenic disease-specific (such as leukemia, liver cancer, or thyroid cancer) mortality among U.S. atmospheric nuclear test participants. See the NTPR Program Reviews and Scientific Studies fact sheet for more information on the results of these studies.

Medical/Compensation Programs

Various public laws, enacted between 1981 and 2003, provide the basis for medical care and compensation entitlement for radiation exposed veterans. These public laws are codified by VA in Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 3.309 and Part 3.311, and by DOJ in 28 CFR 79.

Military Personnel and Medical Records

The NTPR Program does not maintain a file of military personnel service or medical records. These records are maintained by the National Archives and Registration Administration at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC):

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138
http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/

Copies of military records may be requested by submitting a Standard Form 180 to the NPRC. Additional information about the NPRC and instructions on requesting records are available on the NPRC website.

Unit Records

Historical records for military units are not maintained by the NTPR Program, but copies may be requested from the following offices:

- **Army:**
  U.S. Army Center for Military History
  Fort McNair, Building 35
  103 3rd Avenue
  Washington, DC 20319-5058
  http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/

- **Navy:**
  Deck Logs 1942-1973:
  Textual Reference Branch, Archives II
  National Archives & Records Admin.
  8601 Adelphi Road
  College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

  Deck Logs 1974 and later:
  Naval Historical Center (DL)
  Washington Navy Yard
  805 Kidder Breese SE
  Washington, DC 20374-5060

- **Air Force:**
  Air Force Historical Studies Office
  Research and Analysis Division
  3 Brookley Avenue, Box 94
  Bolling Air Force Base
  Washington, DC 20032-5000

- **Marine Corps:**
  Marine Corps History Division
  3078 Upshur Avenue
  Marine Corps Base
  Quantico, Virginia 22134

NTPR Inquiries

Individuals seeking information about the NTPR Program can address their inquiries to:

Defense Threat Reduction Agency
ATTN: J9-NTSN
8725 John J. Kingman Road, Stop 6201
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-6201
(800) 462-3683
E-mail: dtra-ntpr@mail.mil
http://www.dtra.mil/Home/NuclearTestPersonnelReview.aspx

May 2015