

UNCLAS //N06260//

ALCOAST 538/11

COMDTNOTE 6260

SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON THE DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY'S (DTRA) REPORT ON POTENTIAL RADIATION EXPOSURE ASSOCIATED WITH ASSIGNMENT TO COAST GUARD (CG) LORAN STATIONS (LORSTA)

1. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CG LORSTA FROM 1942-2010 HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THEIR DUTIES MAY HAVE CAUSED THEM RADIOGENIC DISEASE DUE TO THEIR EXPOSURE TO X-RAYS EMANATING FROM HIGH VOLTAGE VACUUM TUBES USED IN LORAN AN/FPN-39, -42, -44, AND -45 TRANSMITTING UNITS. LORSTA VETERANS WHO HAVE DEVELOPED A POSSIBLE RADIOGENIC DISEASE MAY BE ENTITLED TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) BENEFITS.
2. PERSONNEL WHO OPERATED AND MAINTAINED THESE SYSTEMS WERE NOT TYPICALLY MONITORED FOR OCCUPATIONAL PERSONNEL RADIATION EXPOSURE AND CONSEQUENTLY HAVE BECOME CONCERNED THAT THEIR UNKNOWN PERSONAL RADIATION EXPOSURES MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HEALTH RISKS. IN RESPONSE TO THIS CONCERN, COMDT (CG-1133), DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSIONED A TECHNICAL ANALYSIS FROM DTRA OF PERSONNEL RADIATION EXPOSURE ASSOCIATED WITH X-RAYS EMANATING FROM LORSTA TRANSMITTER UNITS (DTRA-TR-10-26). SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS FROM COMDT (CG-1133), COMDT (CG-5532), AND THE RETIRED LORAN VETERANS COMMUNITY WORKED IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH DTRA IN CREATING THIS REPORT.
3. DTRA TECHNICAL ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT LORSTA RADIATION EXPOSURE COULD BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR FOR SOME RADIOGENIC DISEASES UNDER CERTAIN SITUATIONS. PERSONNEL RADIATION DOSIMETRY MONITORING THAT WAS DONE IN 1988 AND 1994 DEMONSTRATED MINIMAL PERSONNEL RADIATION EXPOSURE FOR MONITORED PERSONNEL IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ROUTINE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES. THE LEVELS RECORDED WERE WELL WITHIN FEDERAL OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION EXPOSURE LIMITS. THIS SUPPORTS THE NOTION THAT IONIZING RADIATION EXPOSURE WAS MINIMAL FOR MOST PERSONNEL PERFORMING ROUTINE TASKS AT LORSTA DURING THE TIME PERIOD IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE ANECDOTAL REPORTS OF SOME PERSONNEL PERFORMING EXCEPTIONAL OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES WHICH MAY HAVE INCREASED THEIR EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION. THIS SMALLER GROUP OF PERSONNEL WHO PERFORMED THESE EXCEPTIONAL ACTIVITIES MAY BE AT INCREASED RISK FOR RADIOGENIC DISEASE. THESE EXCEPTIONAL ACTIVITIES USUALLY INVOLVED PERSONNEL WORKING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ENERGIZED HIGH VOLTAGE VACUUM TUBES WITH LITTLE OR NO SHIELDING MATERIAL BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS AND THE TUBE. THIS MAY HAVE OCCURRED DURING PERIODS OF VOLTAGE ARCING OR UNANTICIPATED HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSIENTS OR WHEN THE TUBES WERE OPERATING NEAR THE END OF THEIR LIFETIME.
4. THE DTRA REPORT MAY BE FOUND IN ITS ENTIRETY AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:
[HTTP://WWW.DTRA.MIL/SPECIALFOCUS/NTPR/NTPRHOME.ASPX](http://www.dtra.mil/specialfocus/nTPR/nTPRHOME.aspx). (UNDER LEARN MORE).
5. ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN STATIONED AT LORSTA AND WHO HAVE CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS SHOULD ENGAGE THEIR COGNIZANT CG HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER (SEHO). FOR PERSONNEL WHO FEEL THAT THEY MAY HAVE RADIOGENIC DISEASE RELATED TO RADIATION EXPOSURE FROM LORSTA DUTIES AND FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE HAD PREVIOUS CLAIMS DENIED, INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE VA CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 32 AND 33 OF THE DTRA REPORT.
6. CAPT TIMOTHY M. MCGUIRE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WORK-LIFE, SENDS.
7. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.