#### **UNCLASSIFIED**

### The Future of Radiological and Nuclear (RN) Defense Programs and Capabilities

CBRN Quarterly Spring Forum
National Defense Industrial Association
10APR24

David A. Schauer

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.



### **Disclaimer**

The opinions and assertions expressed herein are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), or the Department of Defense (DOD).



#### UNCLASSIFIED

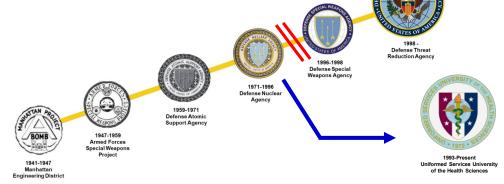
### **AFRRI's History**





Airdrop 21-kiloton yield at NTS 1NOV51

 AFRRI began operations during the Cold War as a part of the Defense Atomic Support Agency (1961-1971) followed by the Defense Nuclear Agency (1971-1993).



- Established following above ground nuclear testing moratorium and development of an enhanced radiation weapon.
- Realigned with USU from 1993 to the present following a shift from mutual deterrence to "denuclearization".
- Remains DOD's only RN medical defense research institute.

# AFRRI Uniformed Services

### **UNCLASSIFIED**

### **AFRRI - Facilities and Capabilities**



TRIGA Reactor
Prompt neutron and
gamma



High Level Cobalt-60
Delayed photon



**Linear Accelerator** 

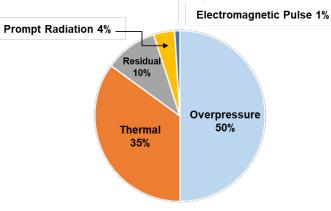
Partial body highenergy photon and electron



Low Level Cobalt-60

Delayed photon





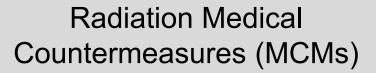


Murine Model



- Primate Model
- Operating Rooms





Combined Injury (CI)

Biodosimetry

Internal Contamination

Low-Dose Effects



Assess - Diagnose - Intervene



### **Overview of Diagnose and Intervene Priorities**

#### **Effective RN Medical Defense:**

**Assess** threat environment using measurements and modelling. **Diagnose** radiation and combined injuries. **Intervene** pre or post-exposure to save lives.

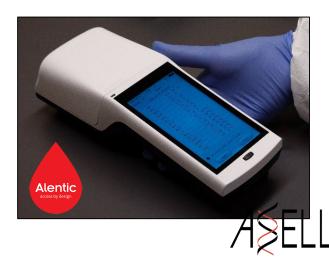
### **Diagnose**











**Smart Decision Tools** 

#### **Forward Deployable Biodosimetry**

#### Intervene

AFRRI currently performs research on >20 drugs:

- Nplate (H-ARS prophy)
- Bio-300 (H-ARS prophy)
- GT-3 (H-ARS prophy)
- Captopril (H-ARS)
- 5-AED (H-ARS)
- YK-4-250 (GI-ARS)
- Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (CI)
- Ghrelin (CI)
- Proprietary Drug + Gentamicin + Levofloxacin (CI)
- Ciprofloxacin (CI)
- Ketone-ester-R3KE (low-dose)

Assess - Diagnose - Intervene



## Services RN Medical Readiness Assessment Based on Current Threats



The Army Science Board

Fiscal Year 2021 Study

An Independent Assessment of the Army's Ability to Fight and Win on a Nuclear Battlefield

Final Report

September 2023

Department of the Army
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology)
Washington, DC 20310-0103