

## **Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction**

**Chair: James A. Zimble, M.D.**  
**VADM, USN (Ret.)**

Dr. Zimble was selected as the fourth President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1991, following his retirement as a Vice Admiral and the 30th Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. After thirteen years of dedicated service to the university he retired with the title of President Emeritus. Upon his retirement he was awarded the Department of Defense Civilian Distinguished Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense, and the USUHS University Medal. As the 30th Surgeon General of the Navy, he was the principal advisor to the Department of the Navy, responsible for developing and establishing overall Naval health care policies and priorities, contingency and wartime planning, and program development for a four billion dollar health care system affecting more than 2.8 million Navy and Marine Corps active duty and retired beneficiaries, and their families.

**Members:**  
**Harold L. Beck**

Mr. Beck is an expert in radiation dose reconstruction. A physicist for the U.S. Department of Energy/Atomic Energy Commission for over 36 years, he retired in 1999 as the Director of the Environmental Science Division of the DOE Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) in New York City. He is presently a private consultant. During his tenure at EML, he also served as Director of the EML Instrumentation Division and as Acting Deputy Director of the Laboratory. Mr. Beck has authored over 100 publications in the areas of radiation physics, radiation protection, dose reconstruction, environmental radiation, radiation dosimetry and instrumentation. His efforts in the development of the scientific approach to reconstructing fallout doses to the U.S. population from above-ground nuclear weapons testing in Nevada earned him the DOE Meritorious Service award in 1988, the second highest award in the department. Mr. Beck served as Scientific Vice President for Radiation Measurements and Dosimetry of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) from 1996-2003, and in 2004 was elected to lifetime honorary membership in NCRP. In 2004, he was appointed as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council (NAS/NRC) Board on Radiation Effects Research (BRER). He has served as an expert member or chair on a number of recent NCRP and NAS/NRC Scientific Studies related to radiation dosimetry.

**Paul Kingsley Blake, Ph.D., CHP**  
**CAPT, MSC, USN (Ret.)**

Dr. Blake is the Program Manager for the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). A retired Navy Captain of the Medical Service Corps, he was the Officer in Charge, Naval Dosimetry Center, and a faculty member of the Radiology Department of the Uniformed Services University of

the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD. Dr. Blake was the Navy/DoD representative on President Clinton's interagency taskforce on occupational hazards and illness of the Department of Energy workforce. This taskforce resulted in Public Law (PL 106-398 & EO 13179) the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. Dr. Blake also led the effort to implement a new thermoluminescent dosimeter, DT-702/PD, for monitoring 50,000 naval personnel, two national labs, and two commercial shipyards associated with naval nuclear activities.

**Ronald Ray Blanck, D.O.  
LTG, USA (Ret.)**

Dr. Blanck is the President of the University of North Texas Health Science Center and is a retired Lieutenant General in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. The presence of a medical expert on the Board is essential for addressing important issues such as the probability of causation of specific types of cancer and other diseases by ionizing radiation exposure. Dr. Blanck's 32-year military career commenced as a General Medical Officer in Vietnam and concluded as The Surgeon General, US Army, and Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command. He has also held academic faculty positions at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Howard University School of Medicine, George Washington University, and Georgetown University.

**John Dunning Boice, Jr., Sc.D.**

Dr. Boice is the Scientific Director of the International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, MD, and Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He serves on the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and as a U.S. advisor to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. During the past 30 years, Dr. Boice has conducted a wide range of studies in the field of radiation epidemiology. This discipline has provided the fundamental basis for the current understanding of radiation health effects, such as an elevated risk of cancer in exposed populations. Long-term epidemiological studies on the Japanese survivors of the atomic bomb, on patients who received medical radiation treatments, on workers engaged in radiation-related activities, and on other exposed populations have provided data upon which estimates have been made of the risk of cancer and other diseases as a function of radiation dose. Epidemiologic studies also have been conducted on atomic veterans in several countries, including the United States, to learn whether adverse health effects are associated with their prior radiation exposure. A leading cancer epidemiologist, Dr. Boice will provide insights into the results of epidemiologic studies on atomic veterans.

**Kenneth L. Groves  
CDR, MSC, USN (Ret.)**

Mr. Groves is an expert in radiation health and nuclear weapons effects. He served for over 26 years as an enlisted man and commissioned officer in the Navy before retiring as

a Commander. He is the President of S 2-Sevorg Services, LLC, a small service company (Veteran-Owned Small Business) specializing in Environmental, Safety and Health (ES&H) program reviews and also Emergency Response and Operations assessments, and Accident/Incident Investigations. Mr. Groves is also retired from the University of California where he worked both at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Office of the President where he was the Deputy Director for ES&H before retiring in 2002. While working at LANL, Mr. Groves held a number of senior ES&H positions including Deputy Group Leader for Health Physics, which included responsibility for conducting radiation dose reconstructions. While in the Navy, he held a number of senior positions including: Director, Navy Radiological Controls Program Office, with responsibilities for the Navy-wide Nuclear Weapons Radiological Controls Program; and Director, Radiological Affairs Support Office and Director of Training at the Naval Nuclear Power Unit/Naval Energy and Environmental Support Office, responsible for shipboard radiation surveys for all sources including nuclear weapons. Mr. Groves has a BA in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico and an MS in Biophysics/Health Physics from Texas A&M University.

### **John Lathrop, Ph.D.**

Dr. Lathrop is an expert in decision analysis, societal decision analysis, risk assessment/management, and incident management. He has been an integral contributor for over 50 complex projects and published extensively involving public and private-sector issues. For example, comparing risks of alternative waste management regulations, he developed and demonstrated an evaluation model using value tradeoffs between different types of risk elicited from 58 representatives of four stakeholder/expert groups (pro-nuclear, anti-nuclear, pro-citizen-involvement, and technical expert). He has authored/co-authored papers on the role of risk assessment in the political process, evaluating technological risk, and using a decision analytic perspective to determine acceptable risk. The VBDR will evaluate the complex set of interactions involving the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and contractor organizations supporting these organizations which underlie the decision process on compensation claims filed by veterans. Dr. Lathrop is a highly experienced decision analyst of complex, interactive systems.

### **David E. McCurdy, Ph.D.**

Dr. McCurdy is an expert in quality management relevant to radiation biology and radiological health. He is a widely published technical consultant to government agencies, national laboratories, universities and the nuclear power industry in the areas of safety assessment oversight, quality assurance, radiochemical and radiometrological procedure development, environmental radiation monitoring, radiological site release/remediation programs and radioanalytical data verification and validation. A major criticism of the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) program in a report issued by the National Research Council in 2003 was the lack of well-documented procedures and quality control. This criticism relates to both the dose reconstruction procedures that are used and the mechanisms of communications with veterans. Dr. McCurdy will

provide insight into quality assurance aspects of procedures used for dosimetry and dose reconstruction for veterans.

**Thomas J. Pamperin, MBA  
LTC, USAR (Ret.)**

Mr. Pamperin is the Assistant Director for Policy of the Compensation and Pension Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has 34 years of federal service and over 32 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the disability claims processing business. He has been a claims processor, rating specialist, supervisor, division chief, and is currently responsible for the development and maintenance of regulations concerning the payment of service connected disability benefits, policy development, budget formulation for the compensation and pension programs, litigation liaison, and advisory review. During his career with the VA he has been responsible for the development and deployment of Benefit delivery at discharge, contract examination, the consolidation of claims processing for VA's needs based pension programs from 57 regional offices to 3 pension centers, and has served as principle liaison with the Department of Defense on Concurrent Receipt and Combat Related Special Compensation. Upon his retirement from the United States Army Reserve he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

**Curt W. Reimann, Ph.D.**

Dr. Reimann is an expert in quality management. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Michigan and served in a variety of research and management positions at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). He served as first Director (1987–1995) of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, led by NIST. The award, created by Public Law 100-107, promotes quality awareness, recognizes excellent U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful quality strategies. A major criticism of the NTPR program in a report issued by the National Research Council in 2003 was the lack of well-documented procedures and quality control. This criticism relates to both the dose reconstruction procedures that are used and the mechanisms of communications with veterans. Dr. Reimann brings to the Board knowledge of quality management for complex, interactive systems such as the dose reconstruction and claims adjudication program for veterans. Dr. Reimann currently holds the Mayberry Chair of Excellence at Tennessee Technological University, College of Business.

**Kristin Swenson, Ph.D., ABR-D, T  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)**

Dr. Swenson, certified in diagnostic radiological physics and therapeutic radiological physics by the American Board of Radiology, and a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, is an expert on radiation health matters. Dr. Swenson is currently a medical physicist for RadAmerica, Inc., where she performs physics calculations for patients and verification of documentation for conventional and 3D treatment. In the Air Force, she served as an Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Preventive Medicine and Biometrics Department, Environmental and Occupational

Health Division where she provided instruction and research for the Public Health and Health Physics Masters' programs. Dr. Swenson also served tours as the Chief, Radiation Protection Division of the Office of the Surgeon General of the Air Force, and as the Chief Medical Physicist at the David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, CA.

**George Edwin "Ed" Taylor  
COL, USA (Ret.)**

Mr. Taylor, a retired army Colonel and Distinguished Military Graduate of Clemson University, is a member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV). Trained as a nuclear weapons employment officer, he participated in nuclear weapons testing exercises-including exposure to a 47 kiloton nuclear explosion less than one mile from "ground zero". A thirty-year career army officer, he gained extensive combat experience at several organizational levels-from company or troop to division and higher-both in command and operations. Mr. Taylor served in Korea late in the Korean War, completed two combat tours in Vietnam and served for seven years in West Germany and Berlin during the Cold War, earning numerous decorations and awards for valor, including the Silver Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC) (Nation's third highest award for valor-3 awards), and the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). He also earned a MBA in human relations management from The George Washington University. With his active duty and more than twenty years involvement and leadership of veterans' organizations, his experience and continued interest on military history (visiting battlefields and interviewing heroes) greatly enhances the Board.

**Elaine Vaughan, Ph.D.**

Dr. Vaughan is an expert in risk analysis and communication. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior, with joint appointments in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and the Department of Policy, Planning and Design at the University of California, Irvine, CA. Dr. Vaughan has published extensively in the areas of science and public policy, quantitative risk assessment and policy, risk communication and psychological response to risk, to include her book: *Some Factors Influencing the Nonexpert's Perception and Evaluation of Environmental Risks*. Dr. Vaughan has served on several panels, including as a selected review panel member for the Department of Veterans Affairs National Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses, and as an appointed committee member for the National Academy of Sciences (Institute of Medicine) Committee on Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from Stanford University.

**Paul G. Voillequé, CHP**

Mr. Voillequé, a certified health physicist, is an expert on historical dose reconstruction. His work on dose reconstruction projects includes source term development for radionuclide releases from the Fernald, Rocky Flats, and Savannah River Site facilities. He was co-author of an assessment of doses and risks from inhalation exposures to

239Pu. He led a project to develop methods for estimating radiation doses to on-site military personnel, construction workers, and nearby residents from short-lived gaseous radionuclides and radioactive particles during the early years of Hanford operations. He chaired the State of Tennessee's Oak Ridge Health Agreement Steering Panel, which guided dose reconstruction studies dealing with historic releases at Oak Ridge. He assists the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the National Cancer Institute with reconstruction of radiation doses to persons in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Belarus who were exposed following the Chernobyl accident.

**Gary H. Zeman, Sc.D., CHP  
CDR, MSC, USN (Ret.)**

Dr. Zeman, a certified health physicist, is an expert on radiation health matters. Dr. Zeman served a 20-year career as a Radiation Health Officer in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps, and retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Commander. He currently holds the position of Radiological Safety Officer at Argonne National Laboratory, and previously held the position of Radiological Control Manager at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He has also worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies as Manager of Radiation Protection and Product Safety. In the Navy, Dr. Zeman's assignments included Radiation Safety Officer for the National Naval Medical Center, and research scientist and research programs manager at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute of the Defense Nuclear Agency. While serving at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Dr. Zeman was active in research on the biological effects of ionizing radiation, and supported the activities of NATO Research Study Group 5 on the potential effects of nuclear weapons in battlefield situations. He has authored a number of publications on ionizing radiation effects and measurements.

**Designated Federal Official:  
Mr. Ronnie Faircloth**

Mr. Ronnie Faircloth is the acting director, Combat Support Directorate, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Fort Belvoir, Virginia. A retired United States Army colonel, Mr. Faircloth served for 30 years on active duty. During his service in the U.S. Army, he served in myriad of command and staff positions, including commanding the 3rd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, a self-propelled artillery unit, forward deployed in Hanau, Germany. He served as the Army Force Integration staff officer responsible for the research, development and fielding of new nuclear weapons systems while assigned to the Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans staff. While serving with the Joint Chiefs of Staff he was involved with all facets of the ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the negotiation of the START II Treaty and other new strategic nuclear arms control initiatives. In 1998, Mr. Faircloth joined DTRA serving as deputy division chief, Arms Control Technology Division, responsible for research, development, testing and evaluation of technology initiatives in support of arms control treaties. He was subsequently assigned as the

deputy director for operations, On-Site Inspection Directorate, and later as the agency Chief of Staff. Mr. Faircloth earned a BA from The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., and he is a graduate of the National War College.