The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute celebrates five decades of advancements in the protection of soldiers and citizens. The AFRRI mission is to preserve the health and performance of U.S. military personnel and to protect humankind through research that advances understanding of the effects of ionizing radiation. To these ends and using its unique resources, the Institute collaborates with other government facilities, academic institutions, and civilian laboratories in the United States and other countries to research the biological effects of ionizing radiation. In addition, it provides medical training and emergency response to manage incidents related to radiation exposure.

Positioned for collaboration
Congress approved the construction of the AFRRI facility on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, on June 8, 1960; ground was broken on November 29 that year. The Institute was formally established as a joint agency of the three military departments on May 12, 1961, and has operated continuously since the first occupants moved into the research facility in 1962. Now part of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Institute is ideally situated to collaborate with the National Institutes of Health as well as the military medical and research communities.

Resources available from the AFRRI Web site

Medical/operational guides at www.usuhs.edu/afrr/outreach/guidance.htm

Medical Management of Radiological Casualties handbook
Emergency Radiation Medicine Response, AFRRI Pocket Guide
Policies on depleted uranium, potassium iodide, and Prussian blue
Textbook of Military Medicine—Medical Consequences of Nuclear Warfare
Quick Reference Information: Recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
TMT Handbook—Triage, Monitoring and Treatment of People Exposed to Ionising Radiation Following a Malevolent Act

Biodosimetry tools at www.usuhs.edu/afrr/outreach/biodostools.htm

Biodosimetry Assessment Tool (BAT) software
First-responders Radiological Assessment Triage (FRAT) software
Medical data forms

For more information about AFRRI, the MEIR Course, and our training products
Visit www.usuhs.edu/afrr/
Call (301) 295-2950/0316
Write AFRRI MEIR Course
8901 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20889-5603

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MEIR Course

The Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation (MEIR) Course is offered by the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). The Course improves the operational capabilities of the military services by providing medical and operational personnel with up-to-date information concerning the biomedical consequences of radiation exposure, how the effects can be reduced, and how to medically manage casualties. The training, formerly known as the Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons Course, was expanded to include nuclear incidents that can occur on or off the battlefield and that go beyond nuclear weapons events.

The students
This postgraduate-level course is primarily for military clinicians, health physicists, and medical planners. It addresses the following topics: fundamentals of ionizing radiation, ionizing radiation interactions with cells and organs, diagnosis and treatment of acute radiation syndrome and combined injuries, psychological effects of radiation exposure, internal radiation contamination, radiological defense, and radioprotection.

Students are acquainted with the hazards of ionizing radiation, radiation pathology, human exposure resulting from radiation accidents, consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation, and nuclear incident response.

The staff
Lectures are developed and presented by AFRRI subject matter experts specifically for military medical professionals.

Length and location
A three-day course is offered regularly at locations in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area and, on request, at other locations worldwide. Supplemental training based on the MEIR Course can be tailored for specific audiences and for workshops, conferences, symposia, and other venues.

Materials
Each student is provided the MEIR Course Syllabus, the latest Medical Management of Radiological Casualties handbook, and the Radiological Terrorism Emergency Management Pocket Guide for Clinicians guidance, published by the CDC.

Continuing education credits
Continuing education credits are sponsored by USUHS, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE) credit also is offered. Under USUHS accreditation, the Course provides continuing nursing education compliant with the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation. The MEIR Standard Course (3 days) usually awards about 22.5 CME, ACHE, or general credits.

Registration and fees
To request training at a scheduled MEIR Course, visit our Web site at www.usuhs.edu/afrri/outreach/meir/meirschd.htm or call AFRRI Military Medical Operations (MMO) at 301-295-2950/1963.

Priority is given to healthcare providers (medical officers, physician residents, interns, physician assistants, health physicists, and nurses), radiobiologists, senior disaster preparedness personnel, and operational planners. Your local administration office is responsible for creating your travel orders.

NOTE: Tuition is waived for U.S. and allied military personnel and Department of Defense civilian personnel, who must register online from a “.mil” or “.gov” address or otherwise justify an exception.

For all other personnel, including defense and government contractors, the tuition is $200 each for the MEIR Standard Course.