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.

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.

Course Length and Location
A two- to 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.

Continuing Education Credits
Continuing education credits are sponsored by USU, 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 is also offered. Under USU accreditation, the Course provides continuing nursing education compliant with the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation. The MEIR Standard Course (2.5 days) usually awards about 15.25 CME, ACHE, or general credits and 15 CNE credits.

Registration and Fees
To request training at a scheduled MEIR Course, visit our Web site at www.usuhs.edu/afrri/ or call AFRRI Military Medical Operations (MMO) at (301) 295-2950/0316.

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.

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.

For more information about AFRRI, the MEIR Course, and our training products, visit our Web site at www.usuhs.edu/afrri/, call (301) 295-2950/0316, or write AFRRI MEIR Course, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20889-5603.