

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

- o 67 nuclear weapons tests in vicinity of Enewetak or Bikini atolls from 1946 - 1958. Indigenous populations of these atolls evacuated.**
- o 42 tests were "atomic" fission devices; of low energy yield (20-500 kilotons); radioactive fallout typically distributed within a few miles of detonation**
- o 25 tests were "thermonuclear" fission:fusion devices; of high energy yield (1-15 megatons); radioactive fallout distributed within tens to hundreds of miles from detonation**
- o The 6 thermonuclear tests of "Castle" series at Bikini in Spring, 1954 contaminated the environment & effected health the most**
 - Due to several factors, first test of series (Bravo) accidentally exposed Marshallese living on Rongelap & Utirik to fallout (100 & 300 miles east of Bikini, respectively)**
 - Exposed populations evacuated**
 - Entire series distributed most of the fallout throughout Marshall Islands due to wind patterns**

- o Marshallese, U.S. servicemen and Japanese fishermen exposed to fallout from Castle Bravo**
 - 65 Marshallese at Rongelap (180 rem dose)**
 - 18 Marshallese at Ailinginae (70 rem)**
 - 157 Marshallese at Utirik (14 rem)**
 - 28 servicemen at Rongerik (78 rem)**
 - 23 Japanese crewmembers aboard, "The 5th Lucky Dragon" (200 - 600 rem)**

- o Medical surveillance and care provided to exposed and non-exposed Marshallese since 1954 by USG**

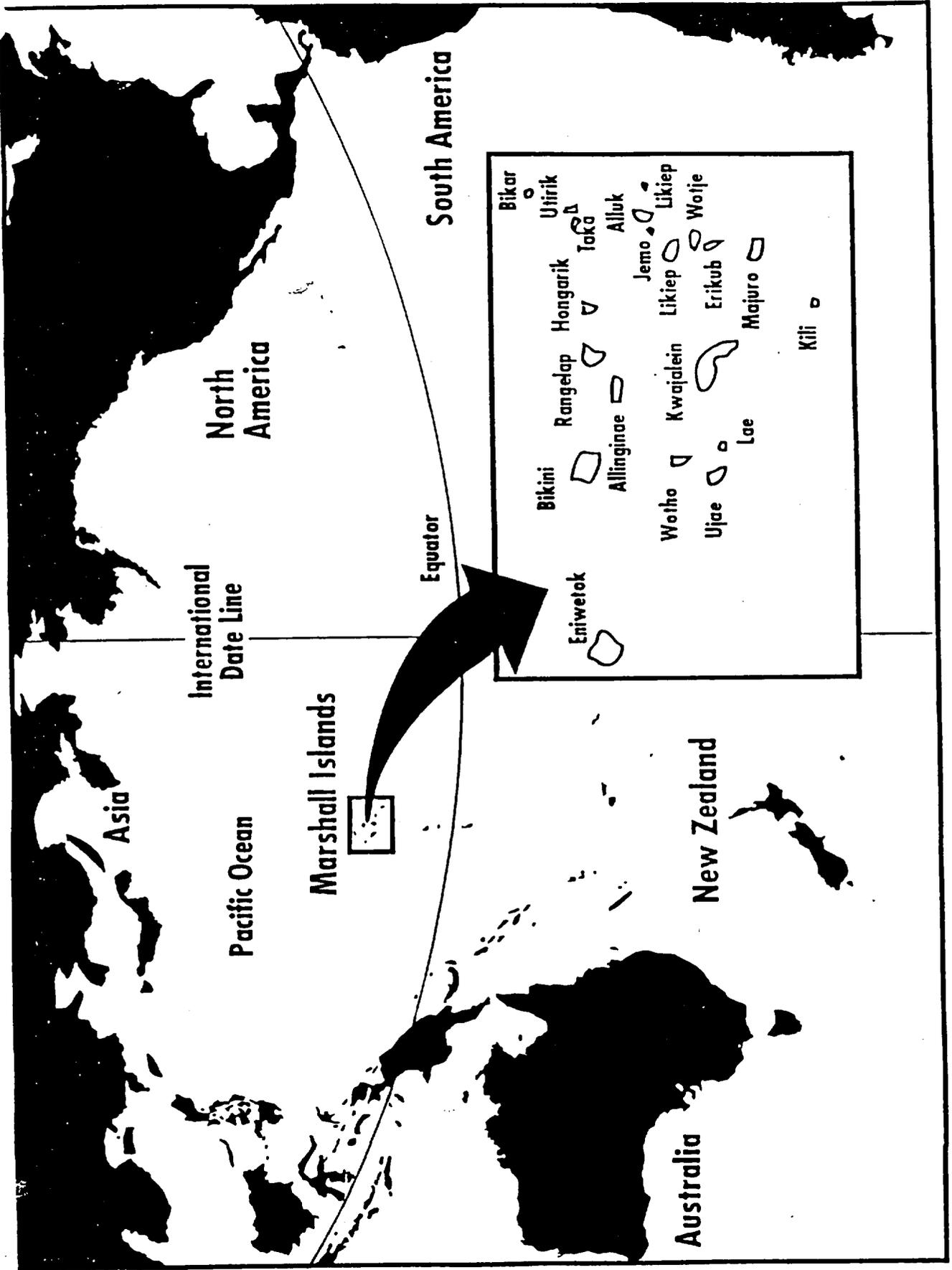
- o Today, 137 exposed are still alive, the only statistically significant radiation related medical findings have been:**
 - increased occurrence of thyroid abnormalities**
 - 1 fatality due to radiogenic leukemia in exposed 11 year old boy**

- o Environmental monitoring conducted numerous times since 1954 to assess radiation dose for population resettlement planning, re-assurance, and standard compliance.**

- o Since 1954, AEC/ERDA/DOE has been providing medical care and surveillance; radiological monitoring .**

- o Program has continued thru various field operational offices (i.e., Sante Fe, San Francisco, Nevada)**

- o In 1990, EH inherits program from DP with DOE/NVOO providing the formal management & fiscal control over logistics contractor**



International Date Line

North America

Equator

South America

Asia

Pacific Ocean

Marshall Islands

Australia

New Zealand

Eniwetok

Bikini

Rangalap

Allinginae

Wotho

Ujae

Hongarik

Taka

Alluk

Jemo

Likiep

Erikub

Majuro

Bikar

Utirik

Likiep

Wotje

Lae

Kili

o Current status of the 4 affected atolls

Bikini

community evacuated in 1946. Returned in 1970 after safety declaration by President Johnston. Evacuated again in 1978 due to community concerns over health, distrust of scientists, and overall lack of communications and understanding. Community at Kili awaiting return.

Enewetak

community evacuated in 1948. After extensive clean-up and remediation by Defense Nuclear Agency in 1970's, population repatriated in 1980 on traditional "home" island. Several non-inhabited islands still contaminated and not remediated to degree of resettled island.

Rongelap

community evacuated in March, 1954 and repatriated in 1957. For same reasons as Bikini, evacuated again in 1985 to Mejjatto by Greenpeace. Considering resettlement options.

Utirik

community evacuated in March, 1954 and repatriated in June, 1954.