San Francisco Chronicle 5
Sat., February 20, 1982

CAPT LOEFLER
X 44582

Navy Findings on A-Waste in Bay

The U.S. Navy claimed yesterday that contamination left in San Francisco Bay in 1946 by 32 radioactive U.S. ships has not been dangerous to the welfare of either the environment or residents here.

It was revealed last month that the ships were brought to San Francisco for cleaning after participating in nuclear weapon tests at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific that tested the effectiveness of the weapons on military hardware.

Most of the ships, the Navy said, were decontaminated on the scene. It said the ships were brought to San Francisco afterward for final decontamination.

The Navy said its findings, based on a recent review of all available records from the period, show the Navy followed environmental standards established by the University of California as early as 1943. The standards conform to current laws limiting radiation exposure.

Debris scraped from the hulls, sold sand to flush water piping systems on board and some sand used in sandblasting the radioactive hulls were disposed of at sea in sealed containers, the Navy said.

Although some radioactive waste was flushed into San Francisco Bay, the Navy said its calculations indicated that a person would have to drink 386 gallons of that water a day for a year in order to receive an exposure equal to that received from natural radiation during the same period.

DASS - TO CDR TAYLOR'S OFFICE

- LCDR - JURKOWSKY