

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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CONCLUSION OF STUDY ON CARIES RESISTANT NAVY RECRUITS
MISREPRESENTED BY OPPONENTS OF FLUORIDATION

A study, designed to show that trace elements in water might complement the caries-inhibitory effect of fluoride, was conducted by F. L. Losee and B. L. Adkins and reported in Caries Research 3:23-31 (1969) under the title "A Study of the Mineral Environment of Caries-Resistant Navy Recruits." In reviewing the records of 360 caries-resistant naval recruits who were scattered all over the eastern half of the United States, a clustering in three areas, all of which had optimal fluoride levels in their water supplies, was found. This created interest and prompted the study.

Opponents of fluoridation have erroneously reported the conclusions of this study, implying that the research indicated fluoridation was unnecessary. Dr. Losee has stated, "It is very frustrating to one who has worked hard for fluoridation to read such distorted reporting on work aimed at augmenting the benefits of fluoridation," and refers to the distorted report as an "atrocitv." Dr. Losee calls attention to the last sentence of his article and specifically to the last two words. "The authors feel that the explanation for the concentration of caries-resistant recruits from northwest Ohio may lie in the simultaneous elevated occurrence of at least boron, molybdenum, lithium, and strontium with fluoride." (underlining supplied)

Division of Dental Health
Preventive Practices Branch
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

*Continues CPB series