

National Association of Atomic Veterans

"Nuclear Test Survivors"



Atomic Veterans News



VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 3 — W. HARPER, ED. — QUARTERLY NEWS

ORVILLE KELLY STARTS NAAV

Wednesday, March 12, 1980

Pentagon asked to identify nuclear GIs

From UPI and local reports

DES MOINES — Attorney General Tom Miller this week asked the Pentagon to rake steps to identify soldiers involved in atmospheric tests between 1950 and 1962 and to warn them of possible health problems.

Miller cited the case of Orville Kelly of Burlington, who apparently developed cancer from radiation exposure while stationed in a Pacific nuclear testing area for nearly a year.

"As our knowledge of radioactivity develops, we are becoming increasingly aware of the residual effects of exposure to atomic reactions," Miller said in a letter to Defense Secretary Harold Brown.

IT APPEARS THAT military personnel involved in the tests are more likely than other people to develop "serious health problems as a result of their exposure to radiation," Miller said, and they should be told of "the potential health problems they may face."

Kelly, home from an extended hospital stay at Veterans Hospital in Iowa City, Tuesday said: "I would hope they would

release the names. I don't see any reason why they shouldn't."

Kelly has tried, along with the National Veteran's law center in Washington, D.C., to obtain names of veterans possibly exposed to radiation. "It may be a long drawn-out affair," he said.

KELLY HAS FOUNDED the National Assn. of Atomic Veterans to help locate ex-soldiers who may have been exposed to dangerous levels of radiation and to lobby for special benefits.

Miller's letter was prompted by a discussion with E. Cooper Brown, a Honolulu attorney who is trying to pressure the Pentagon to review files that may help in identifying potential radiation victims.

Brown told aides to Miller and Gov. Robert D. Ray that the Pentagon has a list of troops stationed near test sites but will not release their names. He estimated as many as 350,000 servicemen may have been involved.

Kelly said the Pentagon should at least be willing to turn the names over to state governors.

"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor...simply justice...no amount of radiation is safe"

1980

A Career Derailed by Honesty

Outspoken opinions can derail careers, even in the supposedly dispassionate world of science. The classic example of the pressures honest, independent scientists are subjected to is the case of John Gofman, M.D., Ph.D. A nuclear pioneer, Dr. Gofman played an important role in the development of the atom bomb. As a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Gofman discovered uranium 233, an achievement that led him to become part of the top-secret Manhattan Project working on the bomb.

After World War II, he became one of the nation's leading researchers of heart disease. He returned to the nuclear field in 1963, when the Atomic Energy Commission, the government agency which then regulated nuclear power, asked him to head a comprehensive study of the health effects of radiation.

A dazzling career up to that point, but then the problems began. Dr. Gofman and a colleague, Arthur Tamplin, Ph.D., pulled together all the data on radiation effects from around the world. They looked at experiments conducted with mice and dogs, and the instances in which groups of human beings had been subjected to radiation. They studied the effects of radiation on the survivors of the bombs dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They examined studies of people subjected to radiation in the course of medical treatments, and in the course of jobs like mining uranium.

"In 1969," Dr. Gofman told Prevention, "we published a scientific paper reporting what we found.

That was not what the AEC wanted to hear. Nuclear power plants emit radiation. The government has rules stating how much radiation a nuclear plant can legally emit. If all levels of radiation were dangerous, and 20 times more dangerous than previously thought, then those plants were very likely causing cancer.

"At that time," Dr. Gofman says, "I was in extremely good standing at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory where we worked, supervising large numbers of people and managing huge research grants for years. Two weeks after the appearance of the report, the AEC ridiculed our work as incompetent. Dr.

Tamplin had 12 of the 13 people working under him taken away. The AEC initiated efforts to censor the report, which we successfully resisted. A grant of \$250,00, which I was using in a separate, unrelated study of cancer, was taken away from me. I resigned my post and returned to teaching at the university at Berkeley.

'We Were Right'

"That's the nature of the harassment we were subjected to. Now, in scientific opinion around the world, it's generally accepted that we were right in our findings, and the AEC was wrong. In fact, since that report, as more information became available, we found that we hadn't exaggerated the risks of radiation, but underestimated them."

SPECIAL FROM THE COMMANDER

This issue of your Atomic Veterans News you will see a different front page that goes back to 1980. The following 4 pages were printed in 1980-81-82. We are trying to remember our founder, Orville Kelly. Without his efforts and his wife's there would be no NAAV. You will also see how honestly effected the career of Dr. John Gofman, M.D., Ph.D.

This information was received some time ago and I promised the sender that I would get it into print. I must apologize to the sender as I misplaced his name. He felt that NAAV did not recognize the Kelly's and their hard work. We did and we do.

The Atomic Veteran is the official publication of the **National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV)**, a non-profit corporation, made up of United States military veterans involved with atomic and thermonuclear testing and deployment, their families and friends. It is published four times per year as a newsletter. It is downloadable from the NAAV web site (www.naav.com) or available in mailed hard copy upon request. The current address for NAAV is P.O. Box 11517, Chandler, AZ 85248, Attention: Bill Harper, national commander. NAAV is chartered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Iowa. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service recognizes NAAV as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. All financial donations to NAAV are deductible by the donor for income tax purposes. Orville and Wanda Kelly were the co-founders of NAAV

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1980

National Archives Yield Secret Radiation Data

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two months after the atomic bomb was exploded over Nagasaki in 1945, two U.S. government research teams found low-level radiation in the Japanese city's outskirts that was about twice the level now considered safe for nuclear workers and over 10 times the radiation safety standard for the general population.

Reports of the two groups, scientists from the Manhattan Engineering District which built the bomb and a U.S. Navy medical research team, were completed in 1946 and are filed in the National Archives.

The once-secret reports are bound to increase the controversy that has developed over whether U.S. troops sent to Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945 absorbed enough radiation to cause cancers that appeared after 20 years or more.

About 100 veterans of the postwar cleanup of damages to the two cities filed claims with the Veterans Administration saying they now have maladies stemming from radiation exposure at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The scientists and engineers carried out 900 measurements in Nagasaki from Sept. 20 to Oct. 6, 1945. The bomb was dropped Aug. 9, 1945.

A fallout cloud passed over the Nishiyama area, two miles from ground zero, and "fission products from the cloud left droplets of yellow-brown liquid," one report quoted Japanese eyewitnesses saying.

The highest levels measured by the Americans at Nishiyama 40 to 70 days after the bomb were one milirem a year. At the time of the measurements, according to their studies, the government-recognized "maximum tolerance dose" was considered to be four milirem per hour.

Today's permissible standards are far lower and

different for individuals who work with radiation or live in an area with radiation exposure.

The nuclear-worker level is 3,000 milirem in three months or 5,000 milirem over a year.

The government standard for individuals not working with radioactive matter is 500 milirem a year.

The U.S. researchers estimated in 1945 that residents of the Nishiyama area received a cumulative total of about 58 rem within 23 days after the fallout passed over.

By the time the U.S. scientists were taking measurements, around Sept. 25, they concluded the 24-milirem daily level was safe.

The levels at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two teams wrote in their reports, were "found to be far below the dose necessary to produce perceptible physiological effects."

To be on the safe side, the cleanup troops were rotated out, usually after a six-week tour, so no one apparently approached even today's much lower safety level, according to the 1946 conclusions.

Norman Solomon, chief researcher, for the Committee for Veterans of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, said Friday he had never heard of the studies filed in the archives.

Solomon's committee is one of several groups sponsoring a three-day national citizens' hearing for radiation victims that ends here today.

Defense Nuclear Agency officials also apparently are not aware of the 1946 studies.

In a Dec. 18, 1979 letter, White House aide Ellen L. Goldstein wrote that DNA said "the maximum dose which might have been received by any U.S. serviceman in either Nagasaki or Hiroshima, in and absolutely worst case, is less than one rem."

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1981

N-exposure payment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government violated the law in the way it adopted rules used to deny medical benefits to former servicemen exposed to nuclear tests in Nevada and assigned to cleanup operations at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a federal judge has ruled.

District Judge June L. Green said the Veterans Administration and the Defense Nuclear Agency failed to permit public participation in drafting the rules by which more than 98 percent of claims for disability or death benefits have been rejected.

The decision was issued Sept. 30 and made public yesterday by the National Association of Atomic Veterans, which, along with eight veterans and the widow of a veteran, had filed a class-action suit challenging the rules.

The judge declared the rules invalid and ordered the agencies to conform with the law's rules allowing interested parties to comment before it adopts new rules.

That does not necessarily mean the veterans will get the benefits they sought since there is no certainty that new rules adopted by the agencies would be different from the old ones, adopted in 1979.

The judge wrote:

"More than 200,000 former servicemen were directly involved in peacetime use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear devices were exploded within a few hundred yards from soldiers kneeling in trenches, sailors aboard ships and pilots who flew through the billowing mushroom clouds.

"No precautions were taken to limit radiation exposure and no medical procedures were implemented to follow the health of these veterans after they were discharged from service."

More than 1,500 veterans — many claiming that exposure to radiation caused cancers and leukemia — have asked for disability benefits. But the VA, on the basis of the disputed rules, has turned down almost all requests.

Judge Green said the rules adopted by the two government agencies concluded that "most military personnel were not exposed to significant levels of radiation" and that "only 10 military personnel in the testing program can be expected to die of cancer related to radiation exposure."

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1981

Scientist warns of hazards

NEW YORK (UPI) — Nuclear radiation is 50 times as hazardous as government and industry leaders estimate and the danger to children is much greater than to adults, said a scientist who helped develop the first atomic bomb.

Dr. John W. Gofman, who isolated the world's first workable quantities of plutonium for the Manhattan Project that produced the world's first atom bomb, said there is no evidence of a so-called safe dose of radiation, as nuclear power advocates suggest, because "radiation is cumulative."

"Industry and government estimates are hardly worth the paper they are written on," Goldman said in his book, "Radiation and Human Health," which was released yesterday.

He said nuclear radiation dangers are understated 50-fold by the government and the nuclear power industry.

Although there is not enough information to say precisely what effect radiation will have on future generations, he said there is now evidence that genetic hazards to future generations are seriously understated.

Gofman's study also found that children are far more sensitive to radiation-caused cancer than are adults.

He said the younger the child is at the time of irradiation, the greater the cancer risk in later years.

He said parents, physicians, and dentists should give serious attention to the evidence to decide if a particular X-ray examination of a child is really advisable.

"It should come as no surprise that the doses predicted and projected by the nuclear industry may be seriously questionable," he said.



Former medic says Army falsified N-test records

United Press International

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The government kept two sets of records — one phony and the other accurate — of radiation exposure to soldiers in Nevada-based atomic tests in 1956 and 1957, a former Army medic says.

Van R. Brandon, facing a threat of treason, broke 25 years of silence to say he followed orders when he prepared the bogus records hiding high levels of radiation exposure to soldiers at the Yucca Flat, Nev., test site.

Two of Brandon's seven children were born mentally retarded, two others have developed arthritis and one of his two grandchildren had her blood changed at birth. He says he believes their problems are due to his own radiation exposure. He said he was worried about other veterans exposed to the radiation and their families might have similar problems.

James Freeman, a pentagon spokesman in Washington, said he had no comment on the news conference or on an earlier interview, in which Brandon said his seven-man, top secret Combined Operations Nuclear Medical Evaluation Team kept two sets of ledgers to record radiation readings from film badges worn by soldiers at the test site.

THE BADGES WERE designed to record the levels of radiation to which the men wearing them, who were sometimes marched to ground zero, had been exposed.

"One set was to show that no one received an exposure above the approved dosimeter reading," he said.

Brandon said those books were locked up[at night in the briefcase and taken out under armed guard. We did not see that set of books other than when we were making recordings into it."

Sometimes the badges actually measured radiation exposures below the limit. In those cases, the true levels were recorded in both the real and phony books.

But two tests — in June, 1956 and April, 1957 — were "the dirtiest ones."

"Things were very highly contaminated,"

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Brandon said. "I mean the ground zero was hot for weeks afterwards. They didn't march people through ground zero, but they got them close."

During a fifth test where he was trained, Brandon said he saw others preparing phony records.

Brandon, 45, who now lives in Marysville, Calif., said when he left the Army in 1961 he was warned that if he told anyone of his experiences "I could be charged with treason under the National Security Act."

FOUR YEARS AFTER his discharge, Brandon said he suffered a nervous breakdown and spent a few days in the mental ward of the Kern General Hospital in Bakersfield.

Barry Kail of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, based in Burlington, Iowa, said most test documents have been declassified and their are few legal risks in talking.

Brandon, who suffers from degenerative discogenic spine disease, said he was denied veterans' benefits. He said officials denied the existence of the top secret medic unit he says he was in.



Photo of the carrer "Saratoga" in Bikini Lagoon, July 1946 before it sank.

From The Commander

This past November Veterans Day I had the honor to represent our organization at a breakfast at the White House in Washington, DC with our President. The whole weekend was unbelievable. I had a picture taken and spoke with the President. After the breakfast I had a short tour as we had about an hour before we took the bus to Arlington National Cemetery for the service. I had an escort the whole time.

While waiting for the bus I had a chance to speak to the Vice President, Chief of Staff, Sec. of Defense. I also had a meeting with Sec. Principi of Veterans Affairs where we discussed a wide variety of problems NAAV has had and is having. I also had a short interview with CNN News.

Publicity is what it is all about. We had a short announcement in the VFW Magazine from which I had over 50 calls besides on line questions. We have run ads in both the Purple Heart and Korean War Vet's Magazines which have resulted in new applications being mailed out.

After many years, we are again moving forward. Your board can not do it all. We need the help of all the membership if we are to succeed and stay strong. State and Area Commanders must take the lead and do their part. If you can help with local publicity or recruiting, contact your State or Area Commander.

CONVENTION 2004 UPDATE

After talking to the San Diego Convention Bureau about our next convention, we received information from 26 hotels. We eliminated 14 because of price, received follow up information from only 12, second follow up from only 6, and visited 4. The decision was made that the Holiday Inn Bayside was the best suited for our membership.

After talking to Sec. Anthony Principi of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs when I was in Washington, there is a possibility he might be available again to address the membership at our next convention. The convention dates will be Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29. Now is the time to start planning. There will be more detailed information in the next newsletter.

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Federal Veterans Laws, Rules and Regulations, 2003 Edition

Sec. 3.102 Reasonable doubt

It is the defined and consistently applied policy of Veterans Affairs to administer the law under a broad interpretation, consistent, however, with the facts shown in every case. When, after careful consideration of all procurable and assembled data, a reasonable doubt arises regarding service origin, the degree of disability, or any other point, such doubt will be resolved in favor of the claimant. By reasonable doubt is meant one which exists because of an approximate balance of positive and negative evidence which does not satisfactorily prove or disprove the claim. It is a substantial doubt and one within the range of probability as distinguished from pure speculation or remote possibility. It is not a means of reconciling actual conflict or a contradiction in the evidence. Mere suspicion or doubt as to the truth of any statements submitted as distinguished from impeachment or contradiction by or known facts, is not justifiable basis for denying the application of the reasonable doubt doctrine if the entire, complete record otherwise warrants invoking this doctrine. The reasonable doubt doctrine is also applicable even in the absence of official records, particularly if the basic incident allegedly arose under combat, or similarly strenuous conditions, and is consistent with the probable results of such known hardships

Pat Broudy
Legislative Director, NAAV



Operation Sandstone

Vice Commander's Corner

We have made some inroads since our Convention in July 2003. The major one being the publication of *Ionizing Radiation Review* which if you haven't received, you should shortly. The *Ionizing Radiation Review* is published and distributed by the VA, will put the Atomic Veteran on the same informed level as the other Veterans.

Second, our State & Area Commanders will be delivering to the VA local offices. This will give each State & Area Commander the chance to bring NAAV into the forefront at the VA offices.

The other major improvement since July is in the area of State & Area Commanders. At that time we had sixteen (16) State Commanders and nine (9) Area Commanders. Today we have thirty-three (33) State Commanders and nineteen (19) Area Commanders. But I must remind both State & Area Commanders, just to have your name in print does not fulfill your duties. As you can see we still have a need for more State & Area Commanders.

We continuously receive requests for Websites to research, so to assist every one in attaining information to work your way through the maze of regulations, we have provided you with the most important Websites, which in turn will lead you to others. We hope these will help and remove some of the questions and frustrations some of you have had in the past.

<http://www.naav.com>

<http://www.aracnet.com/~pdxavets>

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx/atomicveteran/>

http://www.naav.com/html/apply_now.htm

http://www.naav.com/html/med_questions.htm

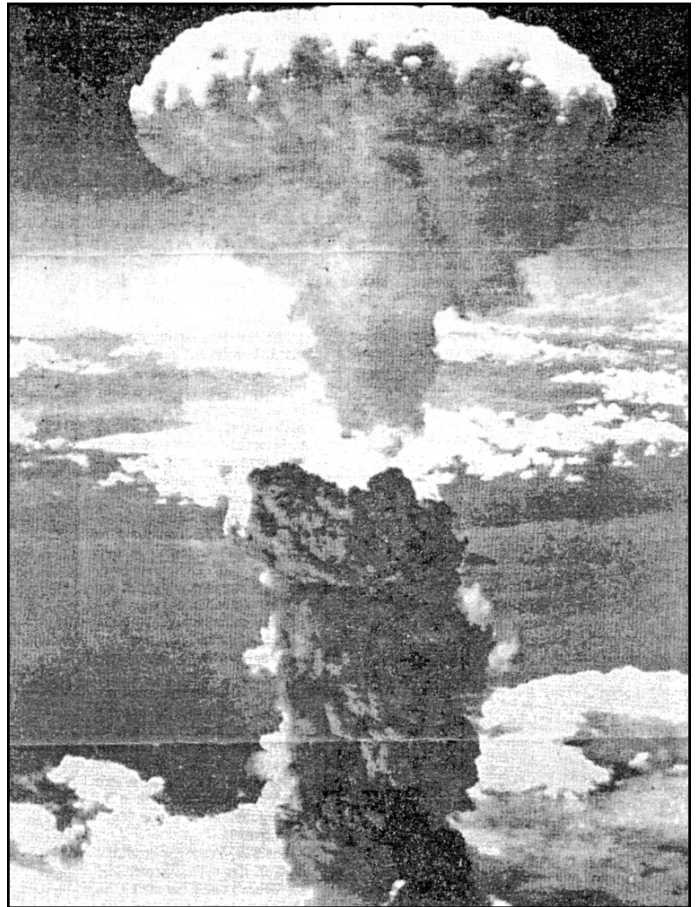
Robert M. (Doc) Campbell Jr.
Vice Commander
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FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

"I watched the flag pass by one day; it fluttered in the breeze. A young Marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform so young, so tall, so proud, with hair cut square and eyes alert, he's stand out in any crowd. I thought, how many men like him had fallen through the years. How many died on foreign soil, how many mothers' tears?"

"How many pilots planes shot down, how many died at sea; how many foxholes were soldiers' graves; no, freedom isn't free. I heard the sound of Taps one night, when everything was still; I listened to the bugler play, and felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times that Taps had meant "Amen", when a flag had draped a coffin, of a brother or a friend. I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea; of unmarked graves in Arlington; no, freedom isn't free."



NAGASAKI JAPAN, August 9, 1945. The nuclear age was well under way, just three days after the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

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SHAW-PITTMAN UPDATE

Received a letter from Doug Rosinski (Shaw-Pittman). The class action for atomic veterans has been dismissed because the judge felt that federal law prohibits her from hearing cases disputing VA benefits decisions (probably *Feres Doctrine*).

If this is upheld that would end the case.

On the other hand the SHAD case (another judge) was decided exactly the opposite and found that Court could hear the case, at least as against the Department of Defense officials.

The next step is to file amotion asking the Court to reconsider its decision in light of the SHAD decision. The competing decisions provide a solid basis for appealing our decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. We will keep you informed on any changes.

Pat Brady, Dir.



BLUE GOOSE CLUB, USA VETERANS & MILITARY FRIENDS MASS REUNION 2004

Your hosts are the members of the Blue Goose Club, USA, with the reunion site being the magnificent Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois – who are going all out to assure an event that will be different & enjoyable on Sept. 10 & 11, 2004.

For information contact:

BLUE GOOSE CLUB, USA
Post Office Box 3095
Elida, Ohio 45807
419-229-6689
E: bluegooseclubusa@aol.com

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WASHINGTON

December 3, 2003

Mr. William A. Harper
National commander
National Association of Atomic Veterans
P.O. Box 11517
Chandler, AZ 85248

Dear Mr. Harper:

Thank you for your note and kind words. It was great to be with you at the White House and Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day.

It was also a pleasure to be with you and your members in Houston for your convention this past summer. I would be pleased to address your members again in September, 2004, if my schedule permits. Please let me know the date and location as soon as your plans are finalized.

My best wishes to you for a Joyous and Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Anthony J. Principi

REMINDER

It has been brought to our attntion by Alaska Commander Brady that some Atomic Vets who think they are on the IRR Registry may not be. On your next appointment check on it.

ANOTHER CASE IS WON

After 7 years of a tough fight, I received verbal notice from the VA Regional Office that I have "won my appeal." This was due to the several affidavits I submitted. My claim form was enclosed in 2 inches of documentation in 1996. So do not ever give up. If I can be of any possible help with your claim please let me know.

Sincerely,
Lady Byron
Santa Teresa, NM
Phone: 915-584-2938

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Donations

Charles Southerland, Francis Kelly, Bronko Lapcevich, Walter Dallas, Barbara McClellen, Eugene Furthmiller, Angela Russo, Frederick Sabini, Rose Tawa, Maria Meaney, Albert D'Ercole, John Dooler, Ruth Rotolo, Robert Rybacki, Eddie Arnot, Mary Peterson, Rose Mula, Robert Santamaria, Ronan Fitzpatrick, Antoinette Quain, Rita Lopreste, Helen Stevenson, Merrill Booth, Christopher Stokes, Vernon Ripley, Peter Dale, Genevieve Dale, Lydia Scopa, John Feudo, Carl Brown, Bernard Baron, Vernon Ripley, Jack Cooper, Harold Hefner, Raymond Waters, Rockwell Collins, Barbara Noble, Robert Gutekenst.

Special thanks to the many friends and relatives of Peter Siragusa who donated in his memory.

Died

George Fettinger, Thomas Schaeffer, William Veitch, Peter Siragusa, Paul Gross, Arther Webb, Carl Brown, Bernard Baron, Russell Odd, Herbert Noble.

MEETINGS HELD

NAAV had a 4-state meeting in Joplin, MO on November 8th, 22 Atomic Veterans from the states of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas attended for lunch and information session. Two service officers attended to answer questions. Another meeting will be held Fall, 2004.

berniecl@swbell.net or 918-749-2034 for more details.

Eastern Oklahoma Atomic Veterans held a meeting at the Western Hills Lodge, Waggoner, OK on November 22. Ten veterans and their spouses attended including the new Arkansas State Commander, Estes Philpott. Lunch and an afternoon session of sharing problems and solutions concerning Atomic Veterans affairs was held. Spring and fall meetings are held each year. Contact Bernie Clark, EOAV Commander, 919-749-2035 or berniecl@swbell.net for more details.

DUES

Thanks to all members who have paid their dues. If your membership is not up to date, please mail to: P.O. Box 11517, Chandler, AZ 85248 as it helps cover the cost of your newsletter. Also think about a lifetime membership. It can be paid in installments. See application page.

**National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis Missouri 63132-5100**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about an improved method of requesting documents from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). As you know, the NPRC provides copies of documents from military personnel records to authorized requesters. Our new web-based application will provide better service on these requests by eliminating our mailroom processing time. Also, since the requester will be prompted to supply all information essential for us to process the request, delays that occur when we go back for more information will be eliminated. You may access this application at:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Please note that there is no requirement to type "www" in front of this web address. This improved on-line request process should be used INSTEAD OF Standard Form 180 for requests from the veteran or the veteran's next of kin.

Please pass this information on to those members of your organization that interface with veterans. Your assistance with this initiative will allow us, and you, to better serve the needs of our veterans. If you publish a newsletter, we would appreciate it if you include this preferred channel for submitting requests in an upcoming issue.



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NAVAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WAS A BLAST

***He was one of a select few
who photographed the results of
the 1946 A-bomb tests at Bikini.***

By Charles Gaerke, Fort Recovery, Ohio

After the war ended in September, we ended up at Pearl Harbor. It was about then that the War Department decided they wanted more tests on the atom bomb.

The tests, called Operation Crossroads, were to be at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. They wanted to see the effects of the bomb on ships when bombs were exploded above and below the water. The Navy got 30 photographers to volunteer to train as underwater divers so we could take pictures of the damage to the ships that sank from the explosions.

Only seven of us made it through the 7 weeks of training. The others couldn't equalize the pressure on their ears or dropped out for other reasons.

At the bomb site, the Navy had over 60 ships of all kinds that were considered expendable and would be used as "guinea pigs" for the test.

On the morning of July 1, 1946, the first bomb was dropped. So as not to be injured by the blast or exposed to the radiation, we were deployed 14 miles away.

After the explosions, drones were sent in to measure the radiation. It was determined that the wind had blown away most of the radiation, so we went in about 6 hours after the blast and started taking photos.

An Awesome Sight

On July 25, another bomb was detonated. This one was suspended 50 feet below water and we were 7 miles away, as it was determined the radiation wouldn't be as dangerous. When the bomb went off, a column of water 2,000 feet across went up over 6,000 feet in the air. It was Awesome.

We had to wait about a week before we were allowed to dive and photograph the damage underwater.

We were required to make many deep dives, down to over 200 feet, to photograph the ships that had sunk. I made 18 dives and each time took a roll of 12 photos with a 35mm self-winding camera.

During those deep dives, our diving suits sometimes leaked and we'd get water up to our armpits. When this happened, we had to remember to remain upright.

Some 42,000 men took part in the exercise.

OPERATION SANDSTONE

This pictorial history of Operation Sandstone stands as a testament to the individual and collective contributions of the members of Joint Task Force Seven in the attainment of a milestone in the development of atomic energy. Although this operation was concerned with the testing of atomic weapons, valuable information pertaining to civilian employment of atomic energy was gained. It is my devout hope that these developments ultimately will become the servants of all mankind in peaceful, day-to-day living.

The operation performed by Joint Task Force Seven was the optimum of integrated effort, involving approximately 10,000 individuals drawn from the Armed Forces and from civilian pursuits. The fact that the conduct of this operation was unmarred by failure of any kind provides absolute testimony to the high professional competence, devotion to duty and patriotism of this body of Americans. Their task was not ordinary. Their accomplishments are of highest import. It was my great privilege to command this elite Force.

Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding.

Thanks to Achilles Granata, E. Haven, CT.

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POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a mental disorder characterized by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic & Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) as an ANXIETY DISORDER!

According to the DSM-IV, the essential feature of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is the development of characteristic symptoms following exposure to an extreme traumatic stressor involving direct personal experience of an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury, or other threat to one's physical integrity; or witnessing an event that involves death, injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of another person; or learning about unexpected or violent death, serious harm, or threat of death or injury experienced by a family member or other close associate.

the response to the event must be "intense fear, helplessness, or horror." The characteristic symptoms involve reexperiencing the traumatic event, avoidance of stimuli associated with the event or numbing of general responsiveness, and increased arousal. Symptoms must cause significant distress or impairment in social or occupational functioning and be present for at least one month. (taken from Veterans Benefits Manual 2003) page 127.

Reports on the Psychological Stresses experienced by the "indoctrinee forces" began to appear in the 1950's. Recent studies of Veterans of these forces suggest that there is a SYNDROME with 'Major Thematic Consistencies' which according to Henry Vyner, M.D., in his book Invisible Trauma include:

1. a belief that they are dying of a disease caused by radiation
2. a belief that they will die early
3. a disrespect for the medical profession as a whole because they have been unable and sometimes unwilling to help but
4. a longing to find that one doctor who will have all the answers
5. a heightened concern for the future health of their children and grandchildren

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6. anger at the government, based on the belief that the government knowingly placed them in a dangerous situation and is now refusing to accept responsibility!
7. guilt over their own anger at the government
8. the belief that they were used as guinea pigs
9. A willingness to be in the service again but
10. A refusal ever to be involved with nuclear weapons again
11. The Belief that most people think they are crazy for believing that ionizing radiation is dangerous and/or the cause of their illness.

In addition, I would be glad to discuss with anyone, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; I myself have been diagnosed with PTSD and receive Total Disability from the Veterans Administration. I have also helped many other Atomic Veterans to file their claims and with their claims for PTSD. There is no charge for my advice. I do know that many Atomic Veterans have this SYNDROME but really don't realize it is compensable with the Veterans Administration. Anyone can call me at 1-803-534-7707.

Edward Fenton
So. Carolina State Comm.

THANK YOU

National Association of Atomic Veterans
Attention: W. Harper, Editor

The Volume 24 - Issue 2 copy looks greater than ever.

I was interested in the item re the school children in Guam. It brought memories of our time in Guam from 1951 to 1955, right after the Organic Act kicked in and the island had a civilian government. I am so glad to see help going their way.

Thank you for continuing to mail my Newsletter. I'm enclosing a small amount to help with postage or whatever.

Sincerely,
Mary W. Peterson
Sacramento, CA

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

HARDTACK

From Nov. 1957 to Dec. 1958 I was stationed on Eniwetok & Bikini Atolls as a PFC-SP4 member of the U.S. Army, "Operation Hardtack."

I worked as a 711.1 assistant in the Post Engineer's office and briefly as a Chaplain's assistant before that.

I saw all of the "shots" of "Operation Hardtack" and bunked for a time with a group of MP's.

I am trying to find out if the following MP's are still with us after all these years.

I've tried the usual methods but came up with nothing. Maybe you can help??

PFC La Mac Grandberry, Columbus, Georgia.

PFC Thomas Justice or Justus, Birmingham, Alabama.

PFC Robert Kirby (no address)

Mr. Harlan W. Harmelink
213 Park Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

—:—

Any survivor of Opus Det. JTF7-OPN Hardtack-Eniwetok 1958, contact:

Donald R. Tennent
216 Locus Ave. #3
Fairmont, WV 26554
1-304-363-0895

—:—

Any former member of the 101st Airborne. I'm looking for information as I lost some of my records. If you can help me please call: 1-504-392-3338.

Merrill Booth
540 Brookmeade Dr.
Gretna, LA 70056

CAMP DELMAR

I have an appeal going, have been fighting for 22 years now. Up until May of this year - I couldn't remember a NAME but thanks to computers and my daughter, the 3rd Marine Amphibious division from DelMar came through with my picture in the red book. I attended my first reunion this June in Texas and met 26 former friends I hadn't seen in 50 years.

The DAV Regional Office in St. Petersburg, FL told me that I NEED WRITTEN documentation from any of you who have been exposed to the radiation from the Nevada test site, who have any medical problems that the government has given you service connection for, or do you know anyone who worked with me at Camp DelMar on the vehicles that were brought back from the Upshot Knothole test site, where we worked on taking parts off of these vehicles. This may be able to help not just me, but any of you trying to get the service connection, or the wives, and the children of the veterans who still can receive compensation after we are long gone.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
William F. Whitehair
206 21st Street N.E.
Bradenton, FL 34208
PH 941-748-9531
Email peeper1992@msn.com

NATIONAL WEBSITES

AMVETS<http://www.amvets.org>
American Legion<http://www.legion.org>
Veterans of Foreign Wars .<http://www.vfw.org>
Disabled American Veterans<http://dav.org>

"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor...simply justice...no amount of radiation is safe"



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLUMBOB

I'm a life member of NAAV. I served with the U.S. Army from June 1955 until June of 1958 both in Korea and as a guinea pig for the A bomb test at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada.

We witnessed Series Plumbob, Shot Smokey in July of 1957. We were about 2800 yds. from the blast which was set off in a tower. There were 3 long trenches about 6 feet deep and six feet wide and I can't recall how long. The first trench was occupied by officers and N.C.O.s. The second and third trenches were occupied by enlisted men.

It was fascinating to watch after we were told we could, after about 10 seconds. There was a tremendous flash of light. I heard a rumor that a Sergeant watched the light by covering his eyes with his arm and could see the bones in his arm the light was so bright. For about 5 seconds the heat was intense like one was in a 500 degree oven. The trench shook violently and danced up and down and side to side like a snake. The noise was a loud boom and within the boom which lasted 2 or 3 seconds was another sound similar to a string of fire crackers going off. I presume this would be known as atomic fission or fusion. There was a hot blast of air which threw up a lot of fine dust which settled on all of us. We were urged to knock the dust off each other. We carried film badges which were taken from us. Surprisingly the 3rd trench back partially burying some soldiers temporarily and they were dug out quickly.

I've had some physical problems beginning with the loss of all my top teeth which were in such bad shape at age 23 that they all had to be pulled out. I had a throat pollop at about age 30. At age 60 I suffered heart attack, T. stroke, and enlarged prostate at age 35. I don't know what would be considered bomb related and what would not. I am presently 66 years old.

Eugene Furthmiller
Downers Grove, Ill.

NAGASAKI

Dear Sir:

Since I was exposed to ionizing radiation in Nagasaki and surrounding area in Japan, I was interested in the long term effect of this radiation.

I searched the internet (in 1999) and found books with information.

Effects of A Bomb Radiation on the Human Body
Harwood Academic 1995

The Health of Former Prisoner's of War
National Academy Press 1992
Institute of Medicine-William Frank Page

The Effects of Atomic Radiation-A Half Century Study from Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The information in these books indicated that 30% of those exposed to this ionizing radiation developed asthma.

A few years ago I was diagnosed with asthma. It continues to worsen.

I feel that asthma which developes after exposure to ionizing radiation should be a presumptive.

Please pass this on to our people who are striving for new presumptives.

Charles B. Heffron
Athens, TN

FROM: SEC./TREA.

We cannot have any bank accounts (under NAAV) established, other than those currently in use. Any Board Member, Officer, State Commander, Area Commander or member of NAAV, who wishes to promote fund raising activities must forward all such funds to headquarters, for deposit in the "official" NAAV account. To do otherwise wold place our Non-profit/Tax exempt status in great jeopardy.

R. J.
Secretary/Treasurer

"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor...simply justice...no amount of radiation is safe"

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National Association of Atomic Veterans

P.O. Box 11517
Chandler, AZ 85248

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The National Association of Atomic Veterans recognizes that civilians as well as military personnel were exposed to harmful nuclear material radiation. Accordingly, NAAV has opened membership to all civilians involved in nuclear programs, as well as their families.

Membership Application

1. Name _____ Spouse _____ Date _____
2. Address _____ Zip _____
3. Telephone number () _____ Date of Birth _____
4. Branch of service _____ Dates _____ Service# _____ SSN# _____
5. Ship, Marine Army divisions units, Air Force squadrons, etc. _____
6. Place and conditions under which you were exposed to radiation _____
7. Illnesses that may have been caused by your exposure to radiation _____
8. Illnesses and birth defects of children and grandchildren, if any _____
9. Claims filed with VA?__ When? _____ If denied, explain why and send copy of VA's denial letter _____
10. Reasons for filing claims _____
11. If atomic veteran related to you is deceased; please send copy of death certificate with Date of death _____ Cause of Death _____
Illnesses that preceded death _____
12. Name, address and telephone number of person who filled out this form if different from above: _____
13. I give NAAV permission to publish any of the above information
Signature _____ Date _____
14. NAAV may also publish my name, address and telephone number
Signature _____ Date _____

Annual Dues \$20.00 - Life Memberships \$200.00, payable in quarterly installments of \$25.00 or more. Do not send cash. Make check or money order payable to NAAV and send to:

National Association of Atomic Veterans

P.O. Box 11517
Chandler, AZ 85248

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I.R.R. IONIZING RADIATION REGISTRY

V.A. CARES ABOUT VETERANS EXPOSED TO IONIZING RADIATION

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- ✧ Ionizing Radiation Registry
- ✧ Health Examinations
- ✧ Special Eligibility Medical Care
- ✧ Disability Compensation
- ✧ Outreach and Education
- ✧ Research
- ✧ Depleted Uranium Screening

**For information and assistance contact the
nearest VA Medical Center, Vet Center or
Regional Office or call 1-800-827-1000**



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