
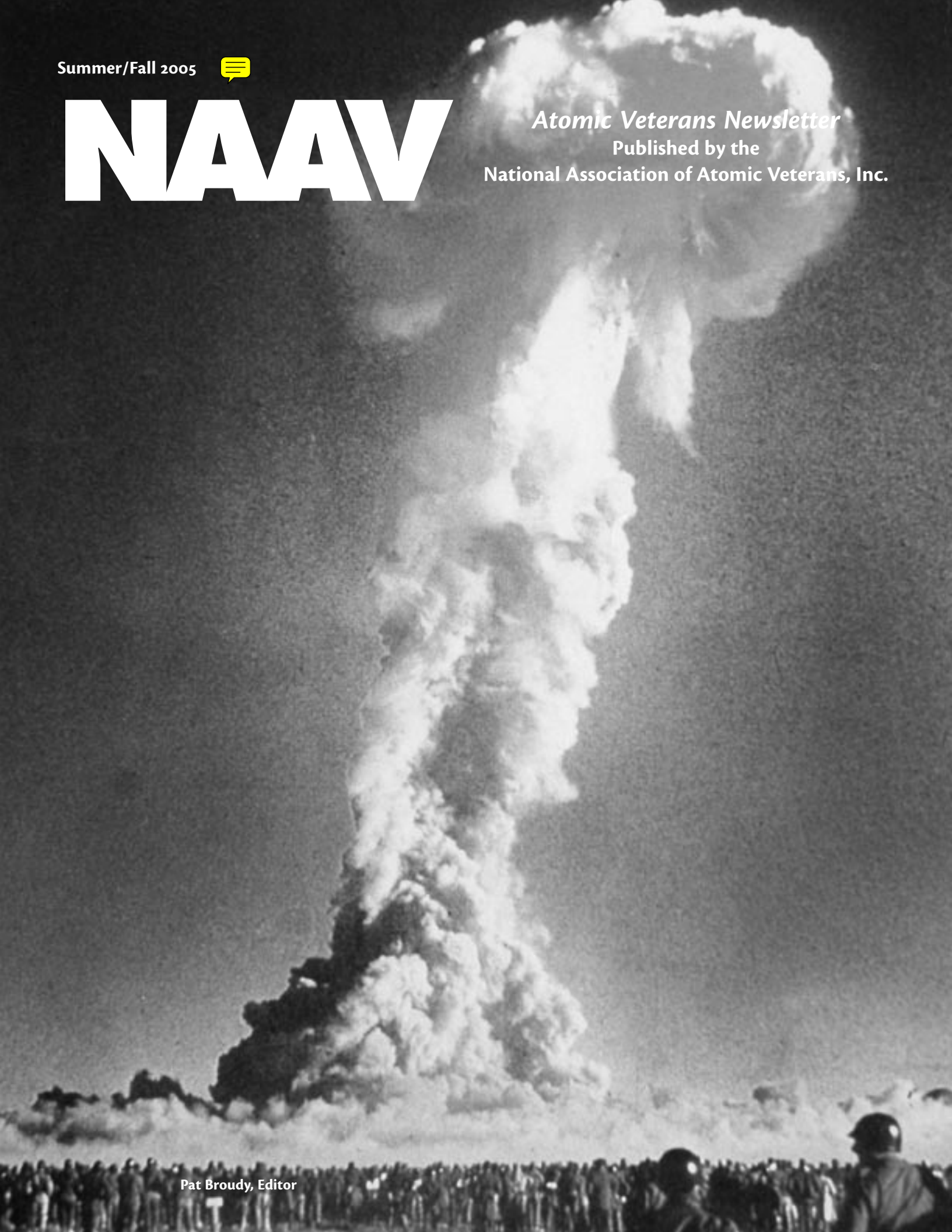


Summer/Fall 2005 

NAAAV

Atomic Veterans Newsletter
Published by the
National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.



Pat Broudy, Editor

Commander's Corner

Dear Members,

Please be advised that National Commander Chuck Wisner has recently submitted his official resignation as N.A.A.V. Inc., National Commander of record, due to his declining health situation.

Given this turn of events, and in accordance with the mandates of the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Directors has elected a new National Commander to serve out Mr. Wisner's term of office, and until the next election cycle to be held at the 2006 national convention, which will be announced in the next newsletter.

Having served as a N.A.A.V. Inc. Director for the past five years, and as newly elected National Commander of record, I wish to convey my thanks to Past Commander Wisner for his contributions to the betterment of the affairs of N.A.A.V. Inc. Given the short span of time between these events, I want to assure the officers, state commanders and the entire membership of N.A.A.V. Inc., that I will be both assertive and progressive in the further promotion of the mission statement and purpose of our organization both in the halls of Congress, and in the general arena of public awareness, dedicated to the remembrance of our fallen and stricken brothers and sisters, who have been witness to, and have played a part in. the development of America's current nuclear weapons arsenal.

Until the next newsletter, I will rely upon your support and blessings for a successful tenure in office as your newly elected National Commander. Until then, God bless N.A.A.V. Inc., and its membership, and God Bless America.

R.J. Ritter
N.A.A.V. Inc.
Managing Director
National Commander

Editor's Letter

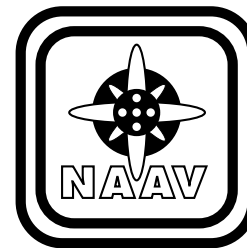
By Pat Broudy

If you are wondering why the last newsletter was so late, the old adage "if anything can go wrong, it will" applies to this case. Fortunately my son, David, is in the printing business and was able to obtain a fairly reasonable price for printing, although it was in Winston-Salem, NC. David lives in St. Paul, MN; I live in California. So, I'll begin there. I, as editor (and David's mom), typed up the articles and emailed them to David. He formatted the newsletter and emailed back to me for proofing. I did that and sent back to David. He made corrections and sent back for further proofreading. This went on eight times to make sure all the i's were dotted and the t's crossed. Sixteen pages each time. Lots of paper, lots of ink, lots of unmentionable language. (We left that out of the newsletter).

Then the fun began with the post office. In order to obtain the bulk mail privilege, it meant a trip to the post office where I received a book to read which would tell me how to go about obtaining the permit. It wasn't until I came to the end of the book that I saw the forms I was to fill out and return to the post office. Back to the post office with the correct form and all the proof I needed that we were a legitimate 501c3 organization. I had to write a check for \$300 before the post office guy would accept the forms and proof, etc. I was not prepared for this. I had not received my allowance from the treasurer and my checking account was in the doldrums (you know, end of the month). Fortunately the post office guy was kind enough to hold the check for a few days. He then forwarded the

...continued on Page 3

Atomic Veterans Newsletter



The *Atomic Veterans Newsletter* is published quarterly and is the official newsletter of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.

Board of Directors

National Commander: R. J. Ritter
Vice Commander: Bob Campbell
Secretary: Charlie Clark
Treasurer: Fred Schafer
National Legislative Director: Pat Broudy
Director of Membership, Director of Trustees,
Director-at-Large: Bernard Clark

Newsletter

Editor: Pat Broudy
Design & Production: David Broudy

Memberships: Annual: \$20; Life: \$200; Life-installment: \$25 quarterly. An application is on the back cover.

Letters to the Editor and articles must be signed to be published. Name withheld upon request.

NAAV reserves the right to edit and publish material submitted. Articles on atomic testing, other radiation-risk activities, biological effects of exposure to ionizing radiation, the politics and history of military and civilian exposure, accounts of personal experiences, cartoons, photographs, poems, and essays and other material will be considered for publication.

The views and opinions of contributors do not necessarily represent those of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

Send submissions, letters, inquiries, reunion information to Pat Broudy, Editor, 33492 Periwinkle Drive, Monarch Beach, CA 92629.

Send dues payments and address changes to R.J. Ritter, 11214 Sageland, Houston, TX, 77089.

Send donations to: NAAV, Inc., Fred Schafer, 290 Hiatt St., Lebanon, OR 97355-4505.

check, the forms and proof of NAAV's existence to Memphis, NY (yes, NY, not TN), which is where all those requests are granted. Finally, after three weeks, the permit for bulk mail was sent — but not to me — it was sent to the former national commander. He mailed it to me, regular mail, not overnight. It took a week to get here from Florida.

By this time Dave and I had finished our back-and-forth game and he then sent the completed files to the printer in Winston-Salem. It took about two weeks to print, bind, and package the 2800 newsletters. The printer then sent the finished newsletters to the mail shop in Laguna Niguel, CA, who attached the labels sent from R.J. Ritter (Texas) and mailed the newsletters. And that is why you did not get your newsletter until just recently. Starting in California, to St. Paul, Winston-Salem, Memphis, NY, Tampa, Houston, and back to California for mailing.

Just as I thought everything was under control and going smoothly I received my first email regarding the newsletter. I sincerely thought it would be complimentary — WRONG. No mention of the content — just a complaint that I had put the wrong name on the back page (under line 14) as recipient of the dues. To compound this felony I confessed to him that the same wrong information was contained in the last paragraph on page 2.

So now that I have confessed my sins, how did you like the newsletter?

For the record:

Page 2, Masthead, last paragraph, should read: *Send submissions, letters, inquiries, reunion information to Pat Broudy, Editor, 33492 Periwinkle Drive, Monarch Beach, CA 92629. Dues payments and address changes to R.J. Ritter, 11214 Sageland, Houston, TX, 77089; donations to: NAAV, Inc., Fred Schafer, 290 Hiatt St., Lebanon, OR 97355-4505.*

Page 16, last page, after line 14, should read: *Make check or money order payable to NAAV, Inc., and send to: R.J. Ritter, address above.*

These changes are reflected in this issue.

From the Producer

Hi, it's David, the designer/producer of this newsletter and the son-in-question mentioned above. I want to ask for feedback on the newsletter's design, specifically the typeface. I chose one that I thought was very clear and readable (Adobe Cronos Pro), but I'd like to find out if any readers have trouble reading the copy. Please send comments to dbroudy@mac.com. While we can't do a large-print version, I'd like to make it as readable as possible. Thanks!

I have lost my prior access to an image scanner, so there won't be many photos in this and upcoming issues until that situation changes, and excuse the recycled artwork!

Broudy et al v. Mather et al

On March 4, 2005, the District Court dismissed the Atomic Veterans case because the judge concluded that the defendant government officials were immune from liability for the alleged misrepresentations and information coverup related to information on actual radiation exposures from US atomic detonations. The Veterans appealed the case to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit where it is awaiting an initial scheduling order. The Veterans' attorneys believe that the District Court's opinion is based on legal conclusions with which there are strong arguments for reversal. Although no order has been issued by the court, it is likely that oral argument will be scheduled in the fall, with a decision some months later.

Douglas J. Rosinski, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
t2300 N Street N.W. Washington, DC 20037-1128 douglas.rosinski@pillsburylaw.com 202.663.9097 202.663.8007 (fax)

For Immediate Release

Defense Threat Reduction, Agency Public Affairs, June 3, 2005: Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction Established

FORT BELVOIR, Alexandria, VA — The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have established the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction. The board will audit dose reconstructions and VA claims decisions for service connection of radiogenic diseases, and improve communications with veterans. These dose reconstructions are used by VA to evaluate and decide claims by veterans of the 1945-1946 occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; veterans who were prisoners of war in those regions when the atomic bombs were detonated; and veterans of U.S.-sponsored atmospheric nuclear weapons tests from 1945-1962.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense jointly established the 16-member board in accordance with Section 601 of Public Law 108-183. The chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Board is retired Navy Vice Admiral James A. Zimble, M.D., a former Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. The board is composed of experts in radiation health effects and risk communication, veterans, and representatives from VA and DTRA. It will meet up to six times a year. The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements will provide technical and administrative support for the board...

In response to concerns about the possibility of an elevated risk of cancer and other illnesses in veterans who were exposed to radiation or fallout from nuclear weapons, several laws have been passed by Congress on the reconstruction of radiation doses and the adjudication of claims of service-connected disability from radiation health effects. Recent reviews by the General Accounting Office and the National Academy of Sciences identified deficiencies in the dose reconstruction and compensation claims programs for eligible veterans. One of the ways these deficiencies are being addressed is through the board, which will conduct periodic, random audits of dose reconstructions and decisions on claims for radiogenic diseases under the dose reconstruction program. The board will make recommendations, as appropriate, on modifications in dose reconstruction procedures.

I have eight members so far that have ordered NAAV flags. Four more and I will get them ordered. Fred Schafer, P.O. Box 2029, Lebanon, OR 97355-2029

Letters to the Editor

March 30, 05

Dear Pat Broudy,

I read with dismay your editorial in the latest NAAV newsletter about the Atomic Test Museum planned to open in Las Vegas in Feb. We here, some of us, have been taking issue with the Atomic Museum concerning their lack of coverage of the effects on populations, of the bomb.

We are greatly concerned over plans of our government to resume testing, albeit underground.

I know you have devoted years of effort toward justice for atomic veterans, and I honor you for that.

Sincerely, in peace,

Dorie Bunting
1940 Poplar Lane SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

31 March 2005

My copy of the Atomic Veterans Newsletter arrived in the mail today, and it is unreadable. It's like a single hard piece of cardboard, as though someone soaked it in a glue solution and let it dry before mailing it. I've tried to separate the pages but I just can't do it. This is especially annoying as the cover of the issue is a photo from the Teapot series, which I covered as a photographer from the Signal Corps. I was there for all 17 shots in that series. I didn't take the cover photo of this shot (which was shot #3 if I remember rightly), but I was standing next to the person who did; he was a still photographer and I was using a movie camera. If you've seen photos of this shot in newsreels, the footage is probably mine.

So I'd like to have a usable copy of the newsletter. Can you send another one to me? I'm a life member.

William Ingram
1200 Brooklyn Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4311

Sorry about the problem with the newsletter. I will be sending you a replacement soon. We've had some torrential rains lately and your newsletter may have been a victim. —Pat Broudy, Newsletter Editor

Email message to the Board from hotdoco@cox.net (3-11-2005)

There is now a new service available to all veterans through the Voluntary Resource Management Director at all VA Hospitals only. This is a chance to tell the story of your service time and have it preserved on tape. After the interview and the tape has been edited, you will receive a copy and one will be forwarded to the Library of Congress. You will be required to sign a release. I have just completed such a session at the La Jolla VA Hospital, San Diego, CA and it was performed in a very professional manner.

Robert M. Campbell Jr.

Email message to patbnaav@aol.com (Pat Broudy)

I went through the tests in 1958. I remember only parts. I was detached from Fort Sill, OKLA. I was then in the 526th Cpl. msi Bn in Fort Sill, and was attached to the 16th airborne. All I remember was the patch they wore. It was almost square and depicted a dragon. I was attached as a radio operator. The other operators were: Pfc Henson, Bernaiski, Ford, Wegnor, and myself, Pfc Gilberto Garcia ER 18504947. The names of the others might not be spelled the same.

The first bomb was named DIABLO and it lived up to its name. It failed to go off and we spent the whole day in the trench with only one canteen of water, no food and no help from 0600 to 1700 that evening. Another bomb that was memorable was PRISCILLA. It had a double shock wave like as if two bombs had gone off just seconds apart. Most of the job was the same each time. The bomb went off and we were told to move out. We advanced towards the blast area until we were told to stop, sometimes too close to ground zero, I thought. My job was to relay or report radiation reading as we moved forward. I stayed in the Army and toward the end of my career I was required to have a physical every six months to, I guess, try to prove that those claiming disability due to the tests were ungrounded.

Petra & Gil Garcia
P.O. Box 20226
4729 Becknell Dr.
Colorado City, CO 81019
ggarcia@ghvalley.net

Gil, the name of your operation must have been PLUMBBOB (1957)—were you also exposed during Shot HOOD? —Pat

11/12/2004

Pat:

Since I have gotten somewhat involved with the Blinded Veterans activity I have run across some Atomic and other Vets who have vision problems but don't know how to get into the VA system. I am now in contact with the VA Coordinator for VIST Program.

Could you place a short "blip" in the newsletter and have folks contact me? Preferably via e-mail (I don't write so I can read it back in most instances). I and others may appreciate "knowing" that there is help. Thanks.

Dick Conant
2424 Venetian Way SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105-7236
rucon1@juno.com

3-7-2005

Is there any way I could receive your NAAV newsletter? I would like to be able to watch for your notice of the NAAV Convention this summer in Tampa and other information that could possibly help me with the Advisory Board meetings I will be putting together. I would certainly appreciate it.

Melanie Heister, Senior AA
NCRP (National Council on Radiation Protection)
7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 400
Bethesda, MD 20814-3095

Melanie — it's a done deal —Pat

Letters to the Editor

3-15-2005, email to Pat Broudy

A NAAV member, Dr. Marie I. Boutte, Medical Anthropologist, Department of Health Ecology, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno NV, began last year talking with our veteran members about their problems with compensation. She plans to be at the Convention this year and do the same thing with those that are interested. Also, she will have a graduate student with her that will be talking to the wives and widows about their experiences. Here is an opportunity to be heard!

Chuck Wisner, Nat. Cdr. NAAV

Undated — For the Newsletter

Reunion Operation Hardtack 1, Eniwetok and surrounding area, 1958. To be held at Holiday Inn, Fairmont, WV, 28, 29, 30 September. The Holiday Inn requires 10 or more for group discount. Also requires seven days or more notice for room reservations. Operation Hardtack II may attend if they wish. Contact:

Donald R. Tennant
210 Locust Avenue #3
Fairmont, WV 26554-1638
PH: (304) 363 0895

Also, looking for George Weyhrick, supply sgt. OPns. det. JTF7, Operation Hardtack 1, Eniwetok, 1958. Contact Donald Tennant.

3-8-2005, email to Larry Marshall
from R.E.Rowland@massey.ac.nz

Hello Larry. Yes, we've finished 5 of the 6 tests into genetic damage and we've broken the code of who is a veteran and who is a control. The study was conducted blind which meant we didn't know who was a veteran and who was a control volunteer to compare the results against. This was done so that we could not be accused of bias. We're currently in the process of analyzing the data statistically. I can't disclose the results at this stage, but if our early analyses are confirmed by other statisticians, then the results will be of immense interest to the public and the veterans themselves. Cheers, Al.

Dr. R. E. (Al) Rowland
Institute of Molecular BioSciences
Massey University, Private Bag 11 222
Palmerston North, New Zealand

March 9, 2005

Mr. William E. Griffis
171 Plantation Road
Jackson, Tennessee 38305-2059

Dear Mr. Griffis:

This is in reference to an inquiry we received from Mr. Charles Wisner regarding your claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I regret the delay in our response.

We are currently developing a Radiation Dose Assessment for your participation in Operation UPHOT-KNOTHOLE, and this assessment will include an internal dose to your prostate. We anticipate having this assessment completed within six months.

You indicated that you developed urinary bladder cancer in 2003,

and noted that this is a presumptive illness under 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3, Section 309. The VA Regional Office, Nashville, Tennessee, is currently moving forward in the adjudication of your claim for bladder cancer. You should contact the VA with any specific complaints as to how your claim is being addressed.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul K. Blake
Nuclear Test Personnel Review
Technology Development Directorate
DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.
Financial Statement as of 3-15-2005

Umpqua Bank NAAV.Inc account

Beginning Balance 11/01/04	\$ 19,247.08
Receipts (Deposits)	\$ 6,140.95
Withdrawals (Expenses)	\$ 8,127.31
Cash on Hand (Treasurer 10/01/04)	\$ 1,000.00
Cash on Hand (Treasurer)	\$ 506.51
Cash on Hand (Treasurer Expenses)	\$ 493.49
Ending Balance 3/15/05	\$ 17,767.23

Willamette Bank (NAAV.inc Life Account)

Beginning Balance 11/1/04	\$ 15,200.00
Receipts (Deposits)	\$ 23,786.72
Withdrawals (Expenses)	\$ 25,787.73
Ending Balance 3/15/05	\$ 13,198.99

Willamette Bank (NAAV.inc Life Account CDs)

Beginning Value 1/1/05	\$ 25,000.00
Ending Value 3/15/05	\$ 25,000.00

Consolidation Of Accounts

Beginning Balance as of 11/01/04	\$ 60,447.08
Receipts	\$ 30,434.18
Expenses	\$ 34,408.53
Ending Balance as of March 15, 05	\$ 56,472.73
Overall decrease in funds	\$ 3,974.35

Sincerely Yours

Fredrick H. Schafer
Treasurer
P.O. Box 2029
Lebanon, OR 97355-2029



Legislative Update

From the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact Jeff Schrade
March 17, 2005 (202) 224-9093

Chairman calls for "seamless" transition from active duty soldier to VA care.

WASHINGTON, DC — Major Tammy Duckworth, a pilot with the Illinois National Guard, kept members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in rapt attention today as she told her story.

The Hawaii native lost both of her legs after a rocket propelled grenade hit the Black Hawk helicopter she was in while flying in the skies above Iraq. Although now a double amputee, the major is determined to both walk and pilot helicopters again — after her rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

But the story she told today was not the one most expected to hear.

Instead of getting into the gritty details of the attack that caused her injuries, Duckworth focused on the care she has received and made recommendations to the committee.

"As disabled soldiers transition to veteran status, we will look to the VA to provide continued access to healthcare, health technology, assisted living devices and social services. The VA will have to face the challenge of providing care at the high level set by the military healthcare facilities," Duckworth told the committee.

Her comments were well received by Chairman Larry Craig (R-Idaho). Yesterday the U.S. Senate passed an amendment to the budget that he had co-sponsored with Sen. John Ensign (R-Nevada) to increase funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs by \$410 million, raising the VA's overall discretionary budget by \$1.2 billion for 2006.

Craig now intends to make sure that the funding is enough to ensure that those who serve our nation are well treated after they leave active duty.

"Seventeen hundred of my fellow Idahoans with the Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade are now serving overseas in Iraq," Craig said, adding that later this year he will visit the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "For those that are wounded, both physically and mentally, we must ensure that there is a seamless transition from active duty soldier to VA care."

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Photographs of Craig and Duckworth available; contact Jeff Schrade at 202-224-9093

Jeff Schrade, Communications Director U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Chairman; 412 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Direct: 202-224-9093 Fax: 202-228-5655

<http://veterans.senate.gov>

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
March 4, 2005
Personnel Announcement

President George W. Bush today announced his intention to nominate four individuals and designate two individuals to serve in his administration:

The President intends to nominate David Garman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy. Mr. Garman currently serves as Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Prior to joining the Administration in 2001, he worked in the United States Senate for 21 years. Mr. Garman served in a variety of positions, including Chief of Staff to Senator Frank H. Murkowski and Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He received his bachelor's degree from Duke University and his master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

The President intends to nominate Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs). He is a career foreign service officer, currently serving as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Poland. Prior to that appointment, Ambassador Hill was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Southeast European Affairs for the National Security Council at the White House. Earlier in his career, he served as Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia and Special Envoy for Kosovo. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Hill served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon. He received his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and his master's degree from the Naval War College.

The President intends to nominate Anthony Joseph Principi, of California, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Upon confirmation, the President will designate him Chairman. Mr. Principi currently serves as Vice President of the Pfizer Corporation. He recently served as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining the Administration, he was president of QTC Medical Services, Inc. Earlier in his career, Mr. Principi served in the United States Senate as Republican chief counsel and staff director of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as counsel to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. A combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, he first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, and later served with the River Patrol Force on the Mekong Delta. Mr. Principi graduated from the United States Naval Academy and later received his J.D. from Seton Hall University.

The President intends to nominate Rudolph E. Boschwitz, of Minnesota, for the Rank of Ambassador during his service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President intends to designate E. Timothy Oppelt, of Ohio, to be Acting Assistant Administrator (Research and Development) at the Environmental Protection Agency.

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<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/print/20050304-11.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/20050304-11.html>

Legislative Update

Department of Veterans Affairs
For Immediate Release
March 17, 2005

VA Reaches Out to Veterans Exposed to Mustard Agents

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a national outreach campaign to locate veterans who were exposed to mustard gas or the chemical weapon Lewisite during their service.

“Many of these veterans have already sacrificed for their country, above and beyond the normal call of duty,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. “At VA, we will ensure they receive the benefits and care they have earned.”

Most of these veterans participated in chemical testing programs during World War II. They were exposed to mustard agents, which includes sulfur mustard and nitrogen mustard, and Lewisite, which is a blister-producing chemical that contains organic arsenic. VA launched an awareness campaign in 1993 about benefits for veterans exposed to chemical warfare materials. This new effort includes direct mailings to veterans newly identified by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Most of these “mustard gas veterans” took part in DoD tests during World War II. The tests were designed to evaluate clothing, ointments and equipment that would protect American troops from mustard agent attacks.

As part of those tests, DoD reported some participants were exposed to a drop of a chemical-warfare agent on an arm, while others had full-body exposure in test chambers, sometimes with limited protective clothing. According to DoD, approximately 4,500 service members were exposed to these agents.

VA is mailing information to the veterans and survivors within the first group of participants identified by DoD. The information covers VA medical and financial benefits, data about the effects of exposure to chemical warfare agents, and telephone numbers for VA and DoD offices involved in the outreach campaign. VA is continuing to seek addresses for additional veterans and survivors.

VA invites veterans to file disability compensation claims for any condition related to service, including exposure to mustard agents and Lewisite.

Veterans or their survivors with questions about these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-749-8387 or visit VA’s benefits Web site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Several members of the board have written the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, requesting the same consideration be given radiation victims. If all of you take pen in hand and do the same, I think it would have an impact. We also need to write to our elected representatives to support Congressman Neil Abercrombie’s bill (next column). There is no bill number yet, so refer to “Successor bill to H.R. 5137.” See first paragraph, top of the page, next column. Please send copies of your letters to Pat Broudy, 33492 Periwinkle Dr., Monarch Beach, CA 92629 with permission for publication in the newsletter. Thanks. —Pat

109th Congress, 1st Session

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(SUCCESSOR BILL TO H.R. 5137)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on (date unknown)

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service, and for other purposes.

Section 1. Eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection resulting from exposure to ionizing radiation due to open-air nuclear testing.

Section 1112(c)(3)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end of clause (i) the following: “or exposure to ionizing radiation due to residual contamination resulting from such a detonation.”

Sec. 2. Requirement to allow service-connection for disabilities of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation while in military service to be established without dose reconstruction record.

Section 1154 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) The Secretary shall include in the regulations pertaining to service-connection of disabilities referred to in subsection (a) additional provisions to ensure, in the case of a claim by a radiation-exposed veteran for service-connection of a nonpresumptive disability, that the procedures for establishment of whether the disability is service-connected do not require imputation to the veteran, through a process known as dose reconstruction, of any particular level of exposure to ionizing radiation.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) The term radiation-exposed veteran has the meaning given that term in section 1112(c)(3)(A) of this title.

“(B) The term nonpresumptive disability means a disability not specified in section 1112(c)(2) of this title.”

Due to the odd formatting used by the submitted PDF file, I've had to reset the text of the bill in a manner more suited to the newsletter layout; however, nothing has been omitted. —D.B.

Attention!

If you are a veteran and you were exposed to ionizing radiation in the atmospheric nuclear weapons testing program (1945-1962) during the following:

- certain underground tests at Amchitka, Alaska
- during the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan (8/6/45-7/1/46)
- as a POW in Japan during World War II when atomic bombs were dropped
- at the Department of Energy plants in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and the K-25 Area, Oak Ridge, TN (for at least 250 days before 2/1/92)
- as a result of nasopharyngeal radium treatment while in service; or
- through contact with depleted uranium during the Gulf War or in subsequent conflicts, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has programs to help you.

For information and assistance, contact the nearest VA medical center, vet center, or regional office. Call 1-800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.va.gov/irad>

For additional information, Maryland's Atomic Veterans may contact:

John D. Bankston
Commander, Maryland Chapter
National Association of Atomic Veterans
2996 Eutaw Forest Drive
Waldorf, Maryland 20603-4057
(301) 705 7312
johnbanks10007148@aol.com
<http://www.naav.com>

James A. Adkins
Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
The Jeffrey Building
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Office: 410 260 3843
FAX: 410 216 7928
Cellular: 443 744 9768

Visit our website: <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/>
Read our newsletter: <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/html/newsletters.html>

Drinking-Water Advisory Lifted

A Filter has Eliminated Most of the Uranium From the Wells in Two Dinwiddie Subdivisions

By Osita Iroegbu
Richmond Times-Dispatch Staff Writer
March 3, 2005

DINWIDDIE — Health officials have lifted a drinking-water advisory placed on two Dinwiddie County subdivisions last year after residents discovered their water was contaminated with high levels of uranium.

The wells supplying the two subdivisions contained 77 and 34 micrograms of uranium per liter. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's limit, set in December 2003, is 30 micrograms per liter.

The advisory went into effect in June, and the Virginia Department of Health and the Crater Health District urged the 115 families in Chesdin Manor and River Road Farms subdivisions to use bottled water for drinking and cooking. Chesdin Manor and Rover Road Farms are neighboring subdivisions on the southern bank of Lake Chesdin.

Fox Run Water Co. Inc., which maintains the wells in the subdivisions, installed a filtering system in November to remove most of the uranium from the wells. Since then, the uranium level has fallen to less than 1 micrograms per liter, said Michael O. Royster, director of the Crater Health District.

Results released in October from urine-sample testing administered in July showed that many Dinwiddie residents had elevated levels of uranium but did not reach a level that would cause severe, long-lasting health problems. Another round of testing is scheduled for this spring.

Although the state Department of Health was aware of the elevated levels of uranium in the Dinwiddie wells in 2000, residents were not notified because the EPA guidelines had not been established...Preliminary tests also found high levels of radon in the well water.

"The primary health risk from radon results from inhaling radon in indoor air and not from consuming tap water. Breathing in high levels of radon over many years increases the risk of lung cancer.... Drinking water contributes a small amount to the total indoor-air concentration of radon."

Residents of the two subdivisions are advised to test the air in their homes for radon. The Crater Health District will provide test kits.

Submitted by Eugene King

Briefly...

Inquiry Begins into Validity of Yucca Mountain Data

Two U.S. agencies probe whether phony studies supported the proposed nuclear dump's safety.

By Ralph Vartabedian
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
March 17, 2005

Two federal agencies launched investigations Wednesday into evidence that government scientists had submitted phony data to help prove that a proposed nuclear dump at Yucca Mountain in Nevada would be safe.

The disclosure could delay the long-troubled project and undermine assurances that the waste dump would pose no harm to the public for thousands of years.

But Energy Department officials cautioned Wednesday that even if some data were falsified, it would not necessarily discredit all the research. Department lawyers discovered a series of e-mail exchanges between scientists that discussed fabricating documentation for a key scientific study about ground water penetration into Yucca Mountain.

The study was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, a part of the Interior Department. It concluded that the deep tunnels intended to hold radioactive waste inside Yucca Mountain would remain dry for thousands of years, and that radiation could not quickly leak into the ground water. That scientific question is one of the most critical surrounding Yucca Mountain, a complex engineering project that is running 14 years behind schedule and could end up costing \$100 billion. The mountain is supposed to safely isolate radioactive materials for hundreds of thousands of years.

Energy and Interior Department officials said they would launch investigations into the allegedly fabricated data. Nonetheless, Wednesday's disclosure inflamed opponents in Nevada, who long have said that the federal government rigged its scientific research to get the dump licensed as soon as possible.

"This proves once again that DOE must cheat and lie in order to make Yucca Mountain look safe," said Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.). "We aren't just talking about false documentation on paper – this is about the health and safety of Nevadans and the American people. It is abundantly clear that there is no such thing as 'sound science' at Yucca Mountain."

The project is opposed by Republican and Democratic lawmakers in Nevada, including GOP Gov. Kenny Guinn, who said he was outraged by the disclosure. The investigations come at a time when Nevada has won a series of political and legal victories against the project, setting it back years and raising doubts whether it will ever be built.

Robert R. Loux, executive director of the Nevada Office for Nuclear Projects, said the apparent falsification of data raised

grave doubts about the safety of the site and, at the least, would force the Energy Department to replicate years of past research to show that rain water does not rapidly flow through fissures in the mountain.

The Energy Department has done two studies of water penetration at Yucca Mountain. The first was conducted by scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory, who concluded that water moved through fissures in the mountain relatively quickly, not in hundreds of years as previously thought. The study found traces of isotopes created during atomic bomb testing after World War II, showing rain water had penetrated the rock in decades.

Loux said that if the water penetration study was falsified, he was concerned about the validity of other research into possible volcanism and earthquakes that could affect the site.

Officials close to the investigation said that in the e-mails, the scientists said that they had no idea about the origin and timing of certain geologic samples involved in the study and would make up the data. At least two key scientists exchanged the e-mails, but copies might have been sent to a larger circle of experts.

Grout said he referred the issue to the Interior Department's Inspector general and initiated an internal USGS investigation. The discovery was disclosed to members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday and then announced in news releases by the USGS and the Energy Department.

Department of Veterans Affairs

May 30, 2005 — Washington DC

Outreach for Atomic Vets

Dear Mrs. Broudy:

This is in response to your inquiry requesting outreach to Atomic Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Secretary has asked that I respond to your letter.

The Veterans Benefits Administration is preparing an outreach campaign for Atomic Veterans that will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This effort will help to ensure that Atomic Veterans are aware of their potential entitlement to VA benefits for disabilities that may be related to their radiation exposure as part of the occupation forces of these cities, or as participants in the atmospheric nuclear tests conducted from 1945 to 1962.

The campaign will use press releases for the news media, which will include veterans service organization newsletters. The releases will include background information about Atomic Veterans as well as information about benefits for which these veterans may apply.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Gordon H. Mansfield

NAAV National Convention August 14–17, 2005

Doubletree Hotel Westshore 4500 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607 <http://www.tampadoubletree.com/> 1-800-222-8733

Rooms \$69.00 + 10.5% tax per night. \$75.57 Double Occupancy. Check-in time 3:00 p.m.; check-out time before 12:00 p.m. *Room reservations must be made by you not later than Friday August 5, 2005.* Registration Fee will be \$60.00 each (includes banquet) For couples wishing to register and attend the Banquet, the cost will be \$110.00. Each registrant will receive a Convention packet and ID badge.

Sunday 14th

Early arrivals check-in

1900 or earlier Board Meeting: Commander's Suite

Monday 15th

0830–11:00 Registration: Lakeforest Ballroom
Quartermaster Sales, Fundraisers, etc.

0900 Board Meeting Commander's Suite 14:00 (if needed)

1100 Break for Lunch

1300–1630 Registration/Sales/Fund-raisers, etc.

1800–2100 Hospitality (standing bar) Lakeforest Ballroom
(Standing Bar, Coffee, Finger Foods, Atomic Bomb Test films.

Note: Hotel shuttle to two shopping malls will be provided on Monday afternoon. Contact Mary Ann Schroeder.

Tuesday 16th

0730–0900 Registration: Lakeforest ballroom
Water, coffee and Danish will be available.
Wives and guests are encouraged to attend.

0900 General meeting: Invocation by NAAV chaplain. Provost Marshall: Salute to the Colors

1100 Speaker: Dr. Paul Blake, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (Dose Reconstruction)

1200 Recess for lunch (Members Choice)

1330 General Meeting

1400 Speaker: Thomas S. Tenforde, President of the National Council On Radiation Protection and Measurements (Report on Advisory Board)

1630 Recess until Dinner

1800–1900 Social Hour/Standing Bar Lakeforest ballroom

1900–2130 Banquet/Music/Dance

Wednesday 17th

0900–1000 Remembrance Meeting: Lakeforest ballroom. Our members who have passed, by Name and State, by NAAV Chaplain

Convention closes

Guest Rooms

NAAV has reserved a block of 45 rooms at \$69.00 plus 10.5% tax (\$76.25), first come, first served. After August 5th, rooms will be at regular price. Members must make their own reservations. NAAV Directors' rooms are already reserved by name. There can be no guarantees of room location. If a handicapped room or a refrigerator for medical purposes is needed, you will have to request it. Same for King, Queen, or Double (smoking or non-smoking; most rooms are non-smoking). The same contracted fee applies three (3) days prior and three (3) after our convention dates, should you decide to come early or stay later. However, you must let the front desk know of your plans.

Pre-registration & Banquet Reservations

\$60.00 each per person, includes registration (\$30.00) and banquet (\$30.00), or \$110.00 per couple in order to cover NAAV's expenses.

Pre-registration cut-off: July 15th. After this date, reservations at the door will be \$35.00 per person. Banquet tickets, \$35.00 per person. Pre-registration and payments are to be sent directly to the NAAV treasurer.

Meeting Room: Lakeforest Ballroom. All convention-related activities will be held in these rooms.

Banquet Menu

Salad: Lettuce & tomatoes, tossed
Entrée: Prime rib or chicken Chardonnay
Twice Baked Potato (like mashed with cheese sauce)

Vegetable: Chef's choice (no cauliflower/broccoli)
Dessert: Carrot cake

NAAV is committed to pay for a minimum of 85 plates — show or no show — so please plan to attend. Music: The State of Florida is donating the fee for this service. The Florida members have volunteered to assist wherever they are needed to make this a successful convention.

Convention Pre-registration Form

August 14-17, Doubletree Westshore Hotel, Tampa, Florida

\$60.00 per person; \$110.00 per couple
(includes Tuesday night Banquet)

Name: _____

(Both names if couple, ie: John & Jane Doe)

Address: _____

(City, state and zip)

Telephone: _____ email: _____

Banquet entrée: Prime rib 1 2 Chicken 1 2

Sugar-free dessert: 1 2

(Please circle your choices)

Note: Please make checks/MO payable to NAAV and send this form to: Fredrick H. Schafer, 290 Hiatt St., Lebanon, OR 97355

Pre-registration deadline: July 15. NAAV is committed to a minimum of 85 dinners, whether attended or not.

Convention Speaker Bios

Dr. Paul K. Blake

Dr. Paul K. Blake is the program manager of the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program, Technology Development Directorate, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va. DTRA safeguards America's interests from weapons of mass destruction by controlling and reducing the threat to the United States and its allies, and providing quality tools and services for the warfighter.

In this capacity, he leads the Department of Defense's efforts to confirm individual veteran's participation in U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests from 1945 to 1962, and the occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. If the participant has filed a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Justice due to a radiogenic induced disease, then the NTPR program provides either an actual or estimated radiation dose received by the veteran.

Dr. Blake is a retired United States Navy captain, having served 26 years active duty. During his time in the Navy, he initially served aboard the USS *Fulton* (AS 11) and the USS *Samuel Gompers* (AD 37). In his first shore assignment, he served as head, Radiation Dosimetry Division, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute. Upon completing his doctoral studies in 1986, he reported to the Naval Dosimetry Center as science advisor. He had the honor of co-designing and implementing the Navy's personnel radiation dosimeter – the DT-648/PD. In 1989, he transferred to Naval Hospital Portsmouth as staff physicist and radiation safety officer and later served as head of his Radiology Department.

In later duty assignments he served as head, Radiological Controls Branch, on the staff of Chief of Naval Operations and as the Surgeon General's specialty leader for radiation health while assigned to the Bureau of Medicine & Surgery. In 2002, he returned to the Naval Dosimetry Center as officer in charge and supervised the implementation of the Navy's next generation radiation dosimeter – the DT-702/PD that will monitor over 50,000 workers. In 2004, he briefly served on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences before retiring from active duty.

Dr. Blake is a diplomate of the American Board of Health Physics and is a member of the U.S. Naval Institute and Health Physics Society. He is an adjunct member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and is presently serving on a technical committee exploring uncertainty analysis in external dose reconstruction. He represents the Department of Defense on the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards. He also serves as an assistant professor in the Radiology and Radiological Sciences Department of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

His military decorations include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and various unit awards.

He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in health physics from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. During his graduate studies at Rutgers University he served as a Health Physics Fellow at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island, N.Y. He later earned a doctorate degree in medical physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Thomas S. Tenforde

Dr. Thomas S. Tenforde received his B.A. degree in Physics from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of California at Berkeley. After completing his graduate studies at Berkeley, he then worked for 19 years as a biophysicist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, where he headed the Environmental Physiology Department from 1982 to 1988. He joined the Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in June, 1988, as Senior Chief Scientist of the Life Sciences Center. From 1990 to 1994 he also served as Manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's Health and Environmental Research Program at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. In 1996 he became Manager of the Hanford Radioisotopes Program, and in 1997 became a Laboratory Fellow in the Environmental Technology Division at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. His responsibilities included oversight of the radiochemical processing of a variety of radioisotopes used for research and for cancer therapy at major medical centers in the United States and Europe.

In April, 2002, Dr. Tenforde was elected as the fourth President of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). NCRP was founded in 1929 and was chartered by Congress in 1964 as a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing scientific support to the public and agencies of the federal government in the development of radiation exposure policies and radiological practices in industry, medicine, and public environments. As the President, Dr. Tenforde is the leader, chief spokesman, and public representative of NCRP. He was previously a member of the NCRP Council from 1988 to 2000, and served on the Board of Directors from 1991 to 1996 and as the Scientific Vice President for the Non-ionizing Radiation program area from 1995 to 2000.

Dr. Tenforde was President of the Bioelectromagnetics Society in 1987-1988, and is also a member of the Radiation Research Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Biophysical Society, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, the Health Physics Society, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine. He is a member of the Physical Agents Committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and served for 12 years on the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. He has previously served on committees of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the World Health Organization, the American College of Radiology, the IEEE Committee on Man and Radiation, the American National Standards Institute, the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, and the National Academy of Sciences Board on Radiation Effects Research. He served as Chairman of the National Research Council's committee on potential health effects of the Air Force Ground Wave Emergency System from 1990 to 1993. From 1997 to 1999 he served on a National Research Council committee that reviewed research activities completed under the Energy Policy Act of 1992.



Depleted Uranium: Then and Now

In an article written for the Depleted Uranium Education Project, and in a speech before the Advisory Committee (12-4-95) we were given the opportunity to speak about uses of depleted uranium (DU) before and during the Gulf War (GW₁), the exposures of military and civilian personnel and the resultant coverup of the records of the "Atomic Veterans" exposed to ionizing radiation during the Cold War, as well as the expectation of the same treatment of the Gulf War Veterans. The following description of depleted uranium and its origins first came to my attention when the Depleted Uranium Network (then in its infancy) requested my input. The following is my response, which was printed in the winter 1996-1997 of the NAAV newsletter.

Separation of the slow-neutron-fissionable uranium 235 isotope (U-235) from the major isotope, uranium 238 (U-238 or DU) was necessary to build the uranium bomb detonated over Hiroshima, Japan, and other gun-type uranium weapons. Natural uranium is almost 99.3 percent U-238 and only about 0.7 percent U-235. To obtain a few kilograms of U-235 leaves more than a ton of U-238 and remaining U-235 waste.

A more important early use was as the "tamping" material between the high explosives and plutonium core of implosion bombs, such as the first Fat Man bomb design used at Alamogordo, New Mexico; Nagasaki, Japan; and twice at Operation Crossroads. A large mass of U-238 acted both to hold the core together until it could fission more efficiently and to reflect neutrons back into the core for more fissions. The plutonium core of Fat Man was only the size of a grapefruit, but the U-238 tamper and explosive lens surrounding it increased the bomb diameter to five feet.

In addition, about 20 percent of the Fat Man TNT-equivalent explosive yield of 21,000 tons was from fast-neutron fission of U-238, because large quantities of fast neutrons are produced in a fission explosion.

This capability of U-238 to fast fission led to its use in thermonuclear bombs to create more explosive yield. The reaction became fission of a small trigger fission bomb to create the heat and pressure for fusion of hydrogen-containing components, then fission of U-238 by fast neutrons produced in copious amounts by both the fission trigger and fusion reaction. A negative aspect was production of large amounts of fission products in the fission-fusion-fission reaction from the large amount of DU employed to enhance total explosive yield significantly compared to the large fusion yield. This greatly increased fission product inventory was essentially the opposite of the "clean bomb" development intent. Resultant heavy fallout from tests such as Shot Bravo, during 1954 in the Pacific, caused beta burns and overexposure of Japanese fishermen on the "Lucky Dragon" fishing boat, Americans on Navy ships caught in the fallout, Marshall Islanders exposed on Rongelap Island, as well as American military personnel on Rongerik Island.

Besides nuclear bomb munitions, other military uses were found. Armor-piercing shells made of DU or with DU claddings were developed as well as hardening of armor with DU cladding. Burn tests of DU munitions alone, as well as DU munitions in shipping containers, in lightly armored Bradley fighting vehicles, and turrets and hulls of Abrams tanks, were conducted at the Nevada Test Site to determine hazards. These uses were prevalent in the Gulf War (GW₁), the cause of "friendly fire" deaths and injuries.

Thus, DU was produced in great quantities during U-235 enrichment operations at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and large numbers of both civilian and military personnel were exposed during World War II in these operations and subsequent fabrication and operations at Los Alamos, including manufacturing of fission bomb tampers and components for hydrogen bombs, there and at other locations. Thousands of these personnel have been exposed to DU and its adverse health effects.

Military personnel exposed to DU during the Gulf War (GW₁) have developed a variety of illnesses that may have been caused by the synergistic effect of additional exposure to airborne petroleum products, adverse reaction to vaccines, and possibly exposure to chemical or biological warfare agents released by Iraq. Our thoughts go back to Atomic Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, DU, and other toxins throughout atmospheric and underground nuclear testing.

Although the DNA (now DTRA) when queried about the numbers of military involved in nuclear-related activities, admits to approximately 400,000 from 1945 to 1963, the Veterans Affairs Committee on Environmental Hazards (chartered by Congress in 1984, P.L. 98-542), in 1993 estimated another approximately 543,000 exposed to ionizing radiation, post-1963 to 1970 (mandated by P.L. 102-578, 1992). However, since that figure included 60,000 underground military personnel, and since underground testing continued to 1992, we can only assume there may be several hundred thousand more exposures.

Atomic Veterans of the Cold War exhibited many of the same illnesses borne by Gulf War veterans and their families upon return from Desert Storm, as well as sterility, stillbirths, and mutagenic effects suffered by their children. Unlike the Atomic Veterans, the Gulf War veterans were able to talk about their illnesses and those of their families. The Atomic Veteran was sworn to secrecy and told he would be court martialed or sent to prison if he discussed his experiences during the Cold War period. It was just recently that the former Secretary of Defense, William Perry, released these men from their vows of silence. Because they did not speak about their experiences or illnesses and the government destroyed or classified their military and medical records, the subject was unknown to most of the American people. Even the wives of the men were not told by their husbands of this awful chapter in our history. Children's textbooks were barren of the subject, so even today, millions in this country do not know of this shameful chapter in our history. And so the men died, the awful secret buried within their patriotic hearts.

Both groups of veterans and their families are victims of the same voodoo technology, some as recently as the last underground nuclear test, where military personnel worked underground in toxic atmospheres. Because of the coverup of documents to "prove" exposures, fewer than 50 Atomic Veterans/survivors have received benefits from the VA under P.L. 98-542. The same fate is in store for the Gulf War Veterans. The health of these veterans and their families has been compromised forever in the name of "national security."

Pat Broudy, Legislative Director
William "Jay" Brady, Consultant

Energy Secretary Pushes To Ramp Up U.S. Ability To Test Nuke Bombs

By Christopher Smith
The Salt Lake Tribune

WASHINGTON — Although scientists continue work on simulating nuclear bomb tests by computer, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said Tuesday that the Nevada Test Site's ability to resume actual underground warhead detonations must be enhanced.

The Bush administration's commitment to step up preparations for a potential resumption of nuclear bomb testing in southern Nevada comes less than a week after the Utah Senate unanimously approved a House-passed resolution that urged the federal government not to "return to the mistakes and miscalculations of the past which have marred many Utahns" and that would create a new generation of "downwinders."

Thousands of Utah residents downwind of the Nevada proving ground blame atomic-bomb testing – which began in the 1950s and ended with a 1992 moratorium – for an airborne scourge of disease and death due to radioactive fallout. Appearing before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Bodman said the administration wants \$2 billion in the next fiscal year for the nuclear weapon stockpile stewardship program, which verifies that America's aging atomic arsenal remains operational.

Last year, a bipartisan congressional effort killed increased funding requests to allow an underground nuclear test to be carried out within 18 months if needed, rather than the current estimated preparation time of 24 to 36 months.

Although no such tests are planned, Bodman said the administration remains convinced the "readiness posture" of the nuclear proving ground must be enhanced.

"We will continue our efforts to maintain the ability to conduct underground nuclear testing and complete the transition to the 18-month test readiness posture that is mandated by Congress," he told the panel.

Bodman also said a \$660 million funding request will keep on schedule a computer simulation project that will use data collected from more than 1,000 previous nuclear bomb tests to help certify stockpile readiness "without resorting to nuclear testing."

But he stressed the need to leave the door open to a resumption of testing in the event that future enemy threats or failures in the stockpile require actual detonation.

"Unanticipated events could include complete failure of a deployed warhead type or the need to respond to new and emerging threats," Bodman said.

The Department of Energy's 2006 budget request includes \$4 million this year and \$14 million next year to resurrect research on a potential "bunker buster" variation of an existing warhead to destroy buried enemy targets. Congress killed the so-called Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator.

But some members of the Armed Services panel said Tuesday that they wanted to question Department of Defense leaders on whether there is truly a need for such technology.

Similar arguments have been raised in the House debate on the bombs by Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah.

"No one is going to argue about pursuing new technologies to address the threats posed by terrorists hiding in hardened or deeply buried sites," said Matheson. "But we should ask and answer this question about whether nuclear weapons, regardless of yield, can even get the job done."

Heads Roll At Veterans Administration

Mushrooming Depleted Uranium (DU) Scandal Blamed

By Bob Nichols

Project Censored Award Winner, 2/2/05 S.W. Bay View

Considering the tons of depleted uranium used by the U.S., the Iraq war can truly be called a nuclear war.

Preventive Psychiatry E-Newsletter charged Monday that the reason Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi stepped down earlier this month was the growing scandal surrounding the use of uranium munitions in the Iraq War.

Writing in Preventive Psychiatry E-Newsletter No. 169, Arthur N. Bernklau, executive director of Veterans for Constitutional Law in New York, stated, "The real reason for Mr. Principi's departure was really never given, however, a special report published by eminent scientist Leuren Moret naming depleted uranium as the definitive cause of the 'Gulf War Syndrome' has fed a growing scandal about the continued use of uranium munitions by the US Military."

Bernklau continued, "This malady (from uranium munitions), that thousands of our military have suffered and died from, has finally been identified as the cause of this sickness, eliminating the guessing. The terrible truth is now being revealed."

He added, "Out of the 580,400 soldiers who served in GW1 (the first Gulf War), of them, 11,000 are now dead! By the year 2000, there were 325,000 on Permanent Medical Disability. This astounding number of 'Disabled Vets' means that a decade later, 56% of those soldiers who served have some form of permanent medical problems!" The disability rate for the wars of the last century was 5 percent; it was higher, 10 percent in Viet Nam.

The VA Secretary (Principi) was aware of this fact as far back as 2000." Wrote Bernklau. "He, and the Bush administration have been hiding these facts, but now, thanks to Moret's report, (it) ... is far too big to hide or to cover up!"

"Terry Jamison, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, at the VA Central Office, recently reported that 'Gulf Era Veterans' now on medical disability, since 1991, number 518,739 Veterans," said Bernklau.

"The long-term effects have revealed that DU (uranium oxide) is a virtual death sentence," stated Bernklau. "Marion Fulk, a nuclear physical chemist, who retired from the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, and was also involved with the Manhattan Project, interprets the new and rapid malignancies in the soldiers (from the 2003 Iraq War) as 'spectacular ... and a matter of concern!'"

When asked if the main purpose of using DU was for "destroying things and killing people," Fulk was more specific: "I would say it is the perfect weapon for killing lots of people!"

Principi could not be reached for comment prior to deadline.

References

1. Depleted uranium: Dirty bombs, dirty missiles, dirty bullets: A death sentence here and abroad" by Leuren Moret.
2. Veterans for Constitutional Law, 112 Jefferson Ave., Port Jefferson NY 11777, Arthur N. Bernklau, executive director, (516) 474-4261, fax 516-474-1968.
3. Preventive Psychiatry E-Newsletter. Email Gary Kohls, gkohls@cpinternet.com, with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Email Bob Nichols at bobnichols@cox.net.

The Honorable R. James Nicholson



R. James "Jim" Nicholson was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on December 9, 2004, and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 26, 2005. He was sworn into office on February 1, 2005. As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Nicholson is the principal advocate for veterans in the U.S. government, ensuring that they receive the care, support, recognition and dignity they deserve for their service to our country. He also directs the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal government's second largest Cabinet Department, responsible for a nationwide system of health care services, benefits programs, and national cemeteries for America's veterans and dependents. With a budget of more than \$69 billion for fiscal year 2005, VA employs approximately 230,000 people at hundreds of VA medical centers, clinics, nursing homes, benefits offices, and national cemeteries throughout the country. Prior to his nomination, Mr. Nicholson served as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, a position he held since 2001, where he became a well-known advocate in Rome for the elevation of human dignity, giving special emphasis to human trafficking, religious freedom, starvation and bio-tech food, HIV-AIDS, and international terrorism. He was knighted by Pope John Paul II in October 2003 for this work representing the U.S. to the Vatican. Mr. Nicholson was born in 1938 and grew up on a tenant farm in northwest Iowa in a family of seven children. He is a 1961 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He served eight years on active duty as a paratrooper and Ranger-qualified Army officer, then 22 years in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of colonel. While serving in Vietnam, he earned the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and two Air Medals. Mr. Nicholson earned a master's degree from Columbia University in New York, and a law degree from the University of Denver. He practiced law in Denver, specializing in real estate, municipal finance and zoning law. In 1978 he founded Nicholson Enterprises, Inc., a developer of planned residential communities, and in 1987 he bought Renaissance Homes, which became an award-winning builder of quality custom homes. In January 1986, Mr. Nicholson was elected committeeman from Colorado for the Republican National Committee (RNC). In 1993 he was elected vice-chairman of the RNC, and in January 1997, he was elected chairman of the RNC, where he served for four years, through the elections of 2000. Mr. Nicholson is married to the former Suzanne Marie Ferrell of Highland Falls, New York, who is an accomplished artist. They are the parents of three adult children.

Banta, George C., 1755 S. Jones R 211, Tucson, Arizona 85713, expired October 27, 2004.

Blackwell, Robert, 92 St. George Mews, Sonoma, California, expired December 20, 2000, survived by wife Abbie P. Blackwell.

Bolick, John David, expired 12-2-2000 (no other information).

Bosheff, John, expired 4-1-05 (no other information).

Brown, Ronald L., expired 5-29-04 (no other information).

Cameron, Howard, no date available.

Daugherty, William, 3319 Curwood St., Waterford, MI 48329, expired July 8, 2003 of acute respiratory failure.

Delaney, William A., 8203 Wildfire Lane, Sacramento, California 95828, expired January 15, 1996, survived by wife Jo Ellen Delaney.

Gastineau, Donald G., Crescent City, California, expired November 28, 2004.

Jeansonne, Ronald, expired 2-17-05 (no other information)

Kolb, Harold, expired 4-3-05 (no other information).

Kolb, Ted, expired November 18, 2004 (no other information).

Lauletta, Nicholas J., expired 2-15-05 (no other information).

Nicoll, Barry R., 603 Seagaze Dr., #439, Oceanside, CA, expired January 28, 2003, survived by wife Rosemarie Nicoll.

Nichols, Jack, 422 Marnell Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062, expired April 7, 2002, survived by wife Bookie M. Nichols.

Overstreet, Warren H., 25 31 Devenwood Rd. Richmond, Virginia 23235, expired August 5, 2002, survived by wife Shirley Overstreet.

Owens, Harold D., 158 Olympic St., Fairfield, CA 94533, expired October 19, 2003, survived by wife Dola D. Owens.

Peters, Thomas, 345 Sterling St., Kingsford, MI 49802, expired May 29, 2003, survived by wife Mary E. Peters.

Tegtmeyer, Raye, 9222 E. Loma Linda Place, Tucson, AZ 85749, survived by wife, Virginia, expired 4-29-2005.

Veitch, William A., 1325 NW 138th St., Edmond, Oklahoma 73013, expired July 26, 2004, survived by wife Elsie Veitch.

Waggoner, Arthur D., expired May of 2004.

Webb, Arthur W., 633 Olympic St., Redding, CA 96003, expired August 21, 2003, survived by wife Pauline M. Webb.

Wells, Sterling D., expired 10-02-04 (no other information).

Willis, Rowland G., P.O. Box 154 Rio Vista, CA 94571, expired November 30, 1994, survived by wife Betty S. Willis.

N.A.A.V. ATOMIC VETERAN ITEMS FOR SALE

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National Association of Atomic Veterans Membership Application

1. Name _____ Spouse _____ Date _____
2. Address _____ Zip _____
3. Telephone number () _____ Date of Birth _____
4. Branch of service _____ Dates _____ Service # _____
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: R.J. Ritter, 11214 Sageland, Houston, TX, 77089

Atomic Veterans Newsletter

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Dated Material

ERRATUM
NAAV SUMMER – FALL NEWSLETTER

These changes were all made after the printer had printed and mailed the newsletter.

I will list them as follows

Page 2 -- Masthead, under Board of Directors

National Commander -- R. J. Ritter (no change)
Vice Commander -- Pat Broudy
Secretary -- Charlie Clark
Treasurer -- Bernard Clark
National Legislative Director -- Pat Broudy (no change)
Director at Large -- R.U. Conant
Director at Large -- F.R. Arceneaux
Director at Large -- C. Wisner

Page 2 -- Masthead, last paragraph

Send donations to NAAV, Inc., Bernard Clark,
2439 East 47th St.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

Page 3 -- For the Record (after "donations to: NAAV, Inc'
Bernard Clark
2439 East 47th St.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

Page 5 -- After Sincerely Yours --
Remove everything except "Treasurer."

Page 7 -- First column, bottom of page (small print) Remove "There is no bill number yet, so refer to Successor bill to H.R. 5137. See paragraph top of the page, next column."

Page 7 - Second column, Remove all commencing with "109th Congress, (the entire second column)

Replace with: 109th CONGRESS
 1st Session
 H. R. 2962

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2005

MR. ABERCROMBIE (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ERRATUM
NAAV SUMMER – FALL NEWSLETTER

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the eligibility criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Atomic Veterans Relief Act.'

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION DUE TO OPEN-AIR NUCLEAR TESTING.

Section 1112(c)(3)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end of clause (i) the following: 'or exposure to ionizing radiation due to residual contamination resulting from such a detonation.'

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR DISABILITIES OF VETERANS EXPOSED TO IONIZING RADIATION WHILE IN MILITARY SERVICE TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT DOSE RECONSTRUCTION RECORD.

Section 1154 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

'(c)(1) The Secretary shall include in the regulations pertaining to service-connection of disabilities referred to in subsection (a) additional provisions to ensure, in the case of a claim by a radiation-exposed veteran for service-connection of a nonpresumptive disability, that the procedures for establishment of whether the disability is service-connected do not require imputation to the veteran, through a process known as dose reconstruction, of any particular level of exposure to ionizing radiation.

'(2) For purposes of this subsection:

'(A) The term 'radiation-exposed veteran' has the meaning given that term in section 1112(c)(3)(A) of this title.

'(B) The term 'nonpresumptive disability' means a disability not specified in section 1112(c)(2) of this title.'

Page 10, bottom of second column (in coupon), under Note: " Please make checks/MO payable to NAAV and send this form to Bernard Clark, 2439 East 47th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105." Remove balance of paragraph.

Back page -- Return address under "National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc. the correct address is "11214 Sageland..." I left off the "1"

Pat Broudy, Editor
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