

*United States
Atmospheric & Underwater
Atomic Weapon Activities*

- 1945 " TRINITY " **ALAMOGORDO, N. M.**
- 1945 " LITTLE BOY " **HIROSHIMA, JAPAN**
- 1945 " FAT MAN " **NAGASAKI, JAPAN**
- 1946 " CROSSROADS " **BIKINI ISLAND**
- 1948 " SANDSTONE " **ENEWETAK ATOLL**
- 1951 " RANGER " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1951 " GREENHOUSE " **ENEWETAK ATOLL**
- 1951 " BUSTER - JANGLE " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1952 " TUMBLER - SNAPPER " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1952 " IVY " **ENEWETAK ATOLL**
- 1952 " UPSHOT - KNOTHOLE " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1954 " CASTLE " **BIKINI ISLAND**
- 1955 " TEAPOT " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1955 " WIGWAM " **OFFSHORE SAN DIEGO**
- 1955 " PROJECT - 56 " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1956 " REDWING " **ENEWETAK & BIKINI**
- 1957 " PLUMBOB " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1958 " HARDTACK I " **ENEWETAK & BIKINI**
- 1958 " NEWSREEL " **JOHNSON ISLAND**
- 1958 " ARGUS " **SOUTH ATLANTIC**
- 1958 " HARDTACK II " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1961 " NOUGAT " **NEVADA TEST SITE**
- 1962 " DOMINIC I " **CHRISTMAS ISLAND
JOHNSON ISLAND**
- 1965 " FLINTLOCK " **AMCHITKA, ALASKA**
- 1969 " MANDREL " **AMCHITKA, ALASKA**
- 1971 " GROMMET " **AMCHITKA, ALASKA**
- 1974 " POST TEST EVENTS " **AMCHITKA, ALASKA**

" IF YOU WERE THERE

YOU ARE AN
ATOMIC VETERAN "



NAAV

A Non-profit Atomic Veterans Association

[with O. H. Q. in Houston, Texas]



" No amount of exposure to ionizing radiation has ever been scientifically proven to be safe "

R. J. RITTER - Editor

Volume 25 No. 1



BUSTER " Easy " - 1951 - Yucca Flats, NV - 31 kilotons

The Newsletter for America's Atomic Veterans



Commander's Comments:

My first order of business is to announce that Director & Vice-Cmdr. **Pat Broudy** will no longer be publishing our periodic newsletters, as Pat is slowly, but surely, recovering from a recent back operation, and given additional health issues, the strain would have been overbearing. Pat will continue to assume the duties as Vice-Cmdr.

and Director of Legislative Affairs.

Given this turn of events, I am assuming the responsibility as **NAAV** Newsletter Editor until the next Director election cycle to be held at the 2007 Convention.

This issue is my first attempt, and I hope you will approve of the format and subject matter. It is our intent to publish a minimum of two (2) newsletters, each calendar year, and perhaps three (3) if possible.

We welcome your personal letters of atomic test participation experiences, general comments, suggestions, or inquiries seeking additional information, for insertion into future issues. I also plan to feature a pictorial overview of all the atmospheric and underwater Atomic Test Operations, as a reminder of the awesome power we all witnessed, while serving our country in various branches of the U.S. Military.

I hope you will enjoy the Ops overviews included in this issue, and welcome your suggestions and comments regarding this approach, in the interest of reliving the history of our experiences with both pictures and words.

Veteran's Day 2005 at the WHITE HOUSE



Accepting a special invitation to represent America's Atomic Veterans at the White House Veteran's Day festivities on November 11, 2005, Cmdr. Ritter had the opportunity to spend a few moments with Commander-in-Chief, President George W. Bush.



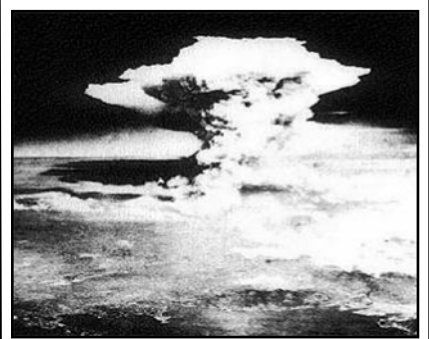
In Memory of our Deceased Members



- Francis Arceneaux (LA)
- Ken Butterfield (WI)
- Durwin Rogers (TX)
- Charles Crist (TN)
- Jack Busby (AZ)
- Sterling Wells (WA)
- Levi Zumwalt (MO)
- George Tustin (CT)
- Marcus McDonald (ND)
- Adolph Ollek (KS)



"Rest in peace our veteran friends"



Cmdr. Ritter (center photo) presents a NAAV (Atomic Bomb Veteran) baseball cap to Major Theodore " Dutch " Van-Kirk, (**Enola-Gay** navigator,) while visiting the Galveston, Texas "War Bird Air Show" in the fall of 2005. The left photo, is an a picture of the **Enola-Gay**, signed by Van-Kirk in August, 1945. The right photo was taken from the **Enola-Gay**, on August 9, 1945 just after the detonation of the A-bomb " **Little Boy**," over the City of Hiroshima, Japan. Ritter also presented Van-Kirk with a NAAV cap for Brig. General Paul W. Tibbetts, (**Enola-Gay** pilot) who was also scheduled to appear at the Air Show, but could not attend due to health issues.

LOUISIANA ADOPTS ACT-69:

In the summer of 2005 the State of Louisiana Legislature passed **Act 69**, calling for the Department of Veteran's Affairs (**DVA**) to fund the administering of full medical tests, for the purposes of detecting any evidence of Depleted Uranium (**DU**) radiation exposure, to all Louisiana military veterans who participated in the first Gulf War, and subsequent Middle East conflicts, where **DU** exposure events may have occurred. The act also clearly mandates that all Louisiana military veterans be thoroughly tested for any and all additional **Gulf War Syndrome** symptoms. Specific language within the act clearly says that the State of Louisiana definitively will not assume the costs for these examinations.

While the State of Louisiana took the lead in passing this law, it was not the only State to also adopt such an act. Since July 2005, The States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York have passed similar acts, and the State of Vermont has passed a similar, though slightly different act. Most Americans would be shocked to learn that the U.S. Government would

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ACT-69 cont:

subject its own military to such radiation health hazards.

America's Atomic Veterans are a testament to the use of U.S. Soldiers as test subjects to measure the effects of Atomic Weapon detonations, both atmospherically and underwater, from the summer of 1945 to the fall of 1962. The U.S. Government has also tested "LSD" and other chemical agents on military subjects, and in certain cases, on its own citizens. We also know that U.S. military personnel were the victims of Agent Orange deforestation chemicals, while on active duty in Vietnam.

Gulf War Syndrome [includes] chronic fatigue (effects from the mitochondria;) and severe headaches; various types of skin rashes; periodic joint pains; muscle pains; nerve damage; neurological damage; kidney damage; lung damage; signs of cardiovascular deterioration; symptoms of acute stress; thyroid disease; multiple types of cancers; auto-immune deficiencies; unusual fevers; night sweats; fluid buildups; sleep disturbances; gastrointestinal signs or symptoms; abnormal (defective) births; menstrual problems; reduced I.Q.; confusion; memory loss; fibromyalgia; Epstein-Barrsyndrome; genetic alterations; sinus diseases; myco-plasma fermentans incognitus; mysterious infections; unusual hair loss; loss of

smell; chemical sensitivities; asthma; and acute vision problems. America's Atomic Veterans have experienced most, or all of these symptoms over the past 60 years. More information about the makeup and effects of **DU** particle exposure will be posted in the next Newsletter.

IONIZING RADIATION REGISTRY EXAM

The *Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA)* has set up the **Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR)** for the purposes of allowing America's Atomic Veterans to receive a complete and thorough physical, without any co-pay fees, or other charges. Since the inception of the *IRR* a few years ago, the number of Atomic Veterans who have received their "no charge" full physicals is approaching **25,000**.

There are several hundred thousand Atomic Veterans, exposed to ionizing radiation particles, who have not applied for such a physical. The majority of these veterans are totally unaware of this service, and may still be under the impression that they continue to be held to an oath of secrecy, which is far from the truth.

It is important that these veterans contact their nearest **VA** health facility, and request to be given an **IRR** examination, so as to be placed onto the *National Registry Listing*, should they develop radiation induced illnesses at some future date. When doing so, ask to speak to the **IRR** Co-ordinator.

If you encounter any problems, please contact *Dick Conant*, (505-877-3707) or *Cmdr. Ritter* (281-481-1357.) They can insure that you will eventually get to the proper person.

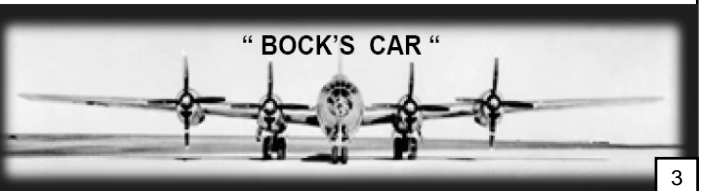
If you cannot show the **VA** facility proof of participation in an Atomic Test, such proof can be secured from the *Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)* in the form of a " Letter of Confirmation." Here again, your **NAAV** leadership stands ready to assist you in this important area.

Again, we emphasize that there is **NO CHARGE** for the **IRR** exam. A Veteran (who is listed) on the **IRR**, who may subsequently be Invoiced for the no-cost exam, should go to the **VA** Facility Billing Office and resolve the problem. If the problem is not corrected, please contact a *Dick Conant* (RUCON1@comcast.net) or by phone, after 8:00 a.m. mountain time only.

Dick can usually have any **IRR** problem resolved within 48 hours, during normal working days only. He will need to have the Veteran;s name, address, telephone number, E-mail address (if applicable,) **VA** health care unit (where the problem exists,) and the name (s) of V.A. contact involved.

Note:

The **IRR** is not administered in **VA** Clinics. However; Primary Care " when listed on the **IRR registry**, " is granted. For Specialty Clinics the Veteran may be sent to another facility where the specific " *Specialty Clinic* " exists and an appointment has been made through the Clinic. Again, Dick Conant can furnish further information in these areas, if required.



VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD (VBDR)



THE VETERANS' BENEFITS ACT OF 2003

The **Veteran's Advisory Board for Dose Reconstruction (VBDR)** held their second meeting in Los Angeles, Ca. on January 12, 13, 2006. The goal of the **VBDR** is to provide guidance and oversight of the dose reconstruction and claims compensation programs for veterans of U.S.

sponsored atmospheric nuclear weapon tests from 1945 - 1962; veterans of the 1945 - 1946 occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; and veterans who were prisoners of war in those regions at the end of World War II.

So as to enable the **VBDR** to accomplish these goals, Congress has mandated that they hold periodic fact finding meetings, in select geographic areas. During the public comment sessions, they want to hear first hand comments and experiences from America's Atomic Veterans who choose to be present for such purposes.

All committee and sub-committee presentations, scientific fact finding reports and comments from Atomic Veterans become an "official" part of the Congressional record, and the final report presented to Congress by the VBDR. The highlights of the Los Angeles, Ca. meetings are as follows:

Dr. Charles Land (*Radiation Epidemiology Branch – Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics – National Cancer Institute*) presented a paper addressing the " *Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure and Education Program.*"

Dr. Paul K. Blake (*Defense Threat Reduction Agency*) presented a report addressing the **DTRA** " *Claims & Process Quality Review Program.*"

Thomas Pamperin (*Asst. Dir. Policy Staff – Compensation & Pension Service – Department of Veterans Affairs*) presented an overview of the **DVA** " *Mechanics for approving service connected claims,*" and recognized the need to improve and speed up the system.

The overall impressions and messages gained from the **VBDR** business meetings are as follows:

A.) The scientific community cannot determine, conclusively, whether or not, exposure to radiation from atomic detonations contributes to the " causation " of skin cancers. Dr. Land continued to stress that determining "causation" probabilities for radiation induced skin cancers continue to be totally " **inconclusive.**"

Therefore; it was suggested (by Dr. Land,) that the **VBDR**, **DTRA**, and **DVA**, assume that all skin cancer claims (submitted by Atomic Veterans,) be given the same uncontested considerations as those cancers currently on the " pre-sumptive cancer " list.

B.) The Scientific community cannot, with any (conclusive) degree of accuracy, determine the exact amount of ionizing radiation an Atomic Veteran may have been exposed to, while participating in an atomic weapons test event. Therefore; it would appear to all present, at these meetings, that the dose reconstruction figures issued by the **DTRA** are not precise, are inconclusive and, for the most part, unbelievable. We will closely monitor this suggestion to see what the response will be from both the **VBDR**, **DTRA** and **DVA**.



Atomic Veterans **Terry Brady** (Alaska,) Cmdr. Ritter and **Charlie Clark** (Hawaii) visit during the Los Angeles VBDR meetings. Both Terry and Charlie submitted issues and comments (for the Congressional record) during the " public comments " sessions.

Next Scheduled VBDR Meeting - June 2006

The **VBDR** will hold their next series of meetings at the OMNI Hotel in Austin, Tx., on June 8, 9, 2006, We urge all **NAAV** members, and other Atomic Veterans, to make an attempt to be present during public comment session periods, from 13:30 to 15:30pm on both days.

It is important for the **VBDR** continue to hear (first hand,) from as many of America's Atomic Veterans, as possible, during the course of these Congressional investigative and fact finding sessions.



Taking a short break from the Los Angeles, Ca. **VBDR** meetings, on the left is retired **Gen. Ronald R. Blanck, Md.** (past Surgeon General of the Army.) and on the right is retired **Adm. James A. Zimble, Md.** (past Surgeon General of the Navy.) In the center is Cmdr. Ritter.



" **Laziest damn dog I ever owned** "

From: *The Reno Gazette - Journal*

A LINGERING CLOUD
"Atomic Veterans - 50 years later"

By: Frank X. Mullen Jr.

In 1955, **Peter B. Christiansen** and about 350 other U.S. servicemen were ordered to stand on a desert ridge about five miles from an atomic bomb blast at the *Nevada Test Site* as part of what the Pentagon called an effort to dispel the "folklore and superstition" about atomic explosions and radiation hazards. "You get an order, you obey it without question," said **Christiansen**, now 72, who has survived colon cancer but still suffers from anemia, chronic fatigue and forgetfulness that he blames on his exposure to radiation.

"We stood on a ridge with our backs to ground zero and the blast went off." After the hot wind and the shock wave passed, he said, officers told the Marines to turn around and look at the boiling cloud. They had no goggles or other protective gear, **Christiansen** said, and we weren't issued radiation badges. "It was like a waterfall of dirt flowing up to the sky," he said. "It is something I'll never forget, although I forget a lot of



Operation TEAPOT "Met" - 04-15-55
Frenchman's Flat, NV. 22 kilotons

things now." "Of my three buddies who stood with me that day, two are dead of cancer and one so far is healthy. I'm getting more tired by the day and I worry about what the future holds." **Christiansen** is among the hundreds of thousands of Soldiers and Sailors

who were deliberately exposed to radiation at atomic bomb tests in the Pacific, Nevada and elsewhere between 1945 and 1963.

At the Nevada Test Site alone, more than 100,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Air Force personnel, and civilian employees took part in atomic battlefield exercises in the 1950s, according to the Department of Defense. Some were observers, placed as close as a half-mile from nuclear blasts.

The troops marched through fallout, charged mushroom clouds, "assaulted" objectives at ground zero in helicopters, flew planes through radioactive dust and worked for hours or days a stone's throw from the blast craters. It was practice for an Atomic War that never came, an experiment to prove to soldiers they could safely operate on a nuclear battlefield, according to military documents.

Christiansen said he is one of the lucky ones because he survived cancer and has a 10 percent disability rating from the Veterans Administration, although the VA has rejected his appeals to increase his meager \$108 per month payments as his health continues to deteriorate.

No Relief: Of the (approx.) one million men and women who may have been exposed to atomic radiation, while in the military, it is estimated that about 400,000 are now dead and many of the approximately 600,000 survivors are sick, according to the **The National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.**, (a non-profit veteran's organization.) Those who have been lucky enough to acquire veterans' benefits had

to fight hard for what little they have received to date, according to statements from both advocates and **NAAV**. "Getting help for atomic veterans is a tough proposition," according to **Joseph R. Scamihorn**, service officer for Reno **AMVETS**, a regional agency that helps veterans apply for federal benefits.



Nose Art on the B-36 Bomber used for dropping the A-bombs used in Operation Teapot at the Nevada site.

"Anything having to do with exposure to radiation is complicated and (the Department of Veterans Affairs) is real slow, and in most cases, real ignorant of the facts related to this type of sickness. It takes years to process a claim and even then it may be denied. I've seen guys die before they even get an answer about benefits," said **Scamihorn**.

R. J. Ritter (Houston, Texas,) a US Navy atomic test veteran and currently **National Commander of NAAV, Inc.**, said service members exposed to ionizing radiation particles, dispersed by atomic weapon detonations, have had limited success in getting VA benefits of any type. "There are a lot of roadblocks in place and it is hard to get anything accomplished when submitting claims for service connected radiation induced illnesses," **Ritter** said.

"These men served their country with dignity and pride, and our US Government Agencies ought to take care of them when they are sick. Instead, these veterans keep running into brick walls." said **Ritter**.

Providing Proof: "Some veterans have a hard time proving they were near a radiation exposure event, because records were classified, inaccurate or lost," **Ritter** said. Others, like **Christiansen**, have trouble proving their current ailments are related to radiation they were exposed to so long ago.

"It's like standing in the rain without a raincoat." "The **Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)** will concede that you were, indeed, standing in the rain without a raincoat, however; their computer generated models of weather patterns, dating 50 years in the past, will ultimately conclude that you did not get wet enough to be considered officially wet enough, while standing in the rain without a raincoat." "It's a classic Catch-22 situation." "These guys have paid their dues in a big way." "To forget about them now just isn't right, and should be viewed as totally unforgivable." **Ritter** said.

Officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs have said they are doing the best they can with limited resources. Last year,



Cameras film an A-bomb dropped during Operation Teapot.

VA officials said they were trying to expedite atomic veterans' claims, as rapidly as they can, given what they have to work with. Regional VA officials in Reno last week declined to be interviewed for this story. Written questions were submitted by the newspaper, however; there were no reply's from



US Troops inspect "Ground Zero" after an A-Bomb detonation at the Nevada Test Site during Operation Teapot

A Lingering Cloud
cont:

the local **VA**. While veteran's advocates criticize the **VA** for its glacial pace in processing claims, they admit the agency is navigating a complex system that requires evidence that isn't readily available. "It's really difficult to prove

a claim for these folks because there are so many different factors involved," said **Paul Ruprecht**, a benefit's specialist with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (**VFW**) in Reno.

"It may appear that the **VA** is just waiting around for these guys to die, but it's difficult enough to prove that an injury or illness was manifested while the person was on active duty and here (with atomic veterans) we're talking about health conditions that didn't manifest themselves until years later."

"You have to go in with enough evidence. That's all the **VA** has to rely on." For America's Atomic Veterans, that evidence is often difficult or impossible to gather.

Declassified Documents: It wasn't until the mid-1980s that the Department of Defense (**DOD**) began to declassify some of the records of the Cold War atomic exercises in Nevada and the Pacific. According to the documents, the military feared that troops who read accounts of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki might be so terrified of radiation that they would be ineffective during an atomic war.

In 1953, a Pentagon briefing paper noted that soldiers and sailors were subject to "folklore and superstition regarding atomic explosions, particularly effects associated with nuclear radiation hazards." The military wanted to gauge the effects of radiation on buildings, equipment, ordnance, food supplies, animals and troops, who were exposed to atomic blasts.

The declassified documents show that scientists took measurements of radiation in an effort to limit the danger to troops, but field commanders were interested in other matters. In an Oct. 18, 1951 memo, **Rear Adm. W. K. Mendenhall Jr.**, a senior nuclear weapons official, chided scientists for spending so much time calculating safe human exposure limits. **Mendenhall** wrote that a field commander isn't interested in measuring radiation: "He merely wants to know, can the troops tolerate the radiation to which they are being subjected for five minutes or five days."

Richard Kraske, 69, of Seattle, Wa. Was a Marine in 1955 and participated in Operation Teapot, shot "Bee," an 8 kiloton atomic weapon detonation at the Nevada Test site on March 22, 1955, the day before the 1 kiloton test that was attended by **Christiansen**.

Kraske was also stationed at Camp Hormo, a part of Camp Pendleton, Ca. "Our unit was an **ABC** (Atomic-Bacteriological-Chemical) war-fare unit," he said.

Atomic Indoctrination: "It really sounded impressive to a 19-year-old kid from Billings, Montana," said **Kraske**.

"Camp Hormo's units were involved in the develop-

ment of fast-attack helicopter tactics that were later used in Vietnam," he said. "They told us we were sent to Nevada to get psychologically vaccinated against atomic blasts."

Kraske and the other Marines were in trenches about two miles from ground zero when the blast went off at 5 a.m. The Marines then boarded 30 helicopters to assault an "objective" closer to the explosion site. He said the Marines later toured the site on foot and saw melted pieces of military equipment and the twisted remains of the 500-foot tower that had held the bomb. "I was fine for a long time, but I have recently developed an aggressive skin cancer and have applied for benefits," he said. "The experience at the test site is the kind of thing you can tell your grandchildren about, if you live long enough to meet them."

Christiansen, who also trained in helicopters at Camp Horno, said he is glad he wasn't ordered to "assault" ground zero. "I know other guys had more exposure to radiation and I know there are a lot of guys worse off than me," he said. "They did their duty same as I did and now they are looking to the government to hold up their end of the deal."

"But it doesn't seem to matter how many things you send to the **VA**, they always seem to deny the claims." Still, said **Christiansen**, he doesn't resent what the military ordered him to do 50 years ago.

"We followed orders and carried out our duty instructions to the letter." And so, even today, he has only praise for the Marine Corps, the **VA** health care system and all of its employees.

They (the **VA**,) are limited by the tools and information they have to work with, and finding anyone who has any nuclear radiation sickness experience is impossible. "I don't know what I'd do without the **VA**," he said. "The doctors and staff in Reno are wonderful and helpful people."

Christiansen went on to say, "I just have a real problem with the system of handling claims." "The Dept. of Veteran's Affairs seem to go any length to deny claims, for whatever reasons, and (in my opinion,) that's a real cop-out." "It's the system, it's not the people who have to live and work within the system."

Cmdr. Ritter agreed that the **VA** claims system is in dire need of major improvements. "Of the approximately 280,000 veteran claims submitted, since 1979, for service connected radiation induced health anomalies, it is estimated that only 50 were fully approved at or above the 50 percent compensation level." **Ritter** said. Under current law, there

are 21 types of cancers that could have been the result of exposure to ionizing radiation, listed as "presumptive." This means that an atomic veteran, who was exposed to ionizing radiation, and who has developed any of the cancers on the presumptive list,



Military troops viewing an A-Bomb test detonation at the Nevada Test Site



Teapot – Wasp - 1955
Nevada Test Site

A Lingering Cloud cont:
will **not** require a “theoretical” **Dose Reconstruction** assessment, the results of which cannot be scientifically proven to be either accurate or totally believable, according to recent scientific studies.

Additionally, **Ritter** called attention to **U.S. House Resolution 2962**, which is pending in Congress, and specifically designed to abolish “**Dose Re-**

construction” from the radiation exposure illness (**VA**) claims filing process. “We would like to see all types of cancers, that can be associated in any manner with ionizing radiation exposure, to be on the presumptive list, including all types of skin cancer.” **Ritter** said.

It is the firm position of **NAAV**, that “if you were there, and you are now sick, then you should automatically qualify for proper medical care and measurable benefits, because you were ordered by the **US Military** to be there.”

Ritter also said “nothing will happen until America’s Atomic Veterans speak with a clearer and stronger voice, and the public gets involved to pressure Congress to change the current **VA** service connected health claims procedures.” “To just forget about these veterans, who performed their duty, without question, and who faced great health risks resulting from those duty assignments 50 years ago, just isn’t justified.” “Given current events related to these issues, it is in the best interest of all Atomic Veterans, to plead with their Congressional Representatives to support the passage of **House Resolution 2962** that will completely remove the need for **Dose Reconstruction** when filing a claim for service connected radiation illnesses.”

Kraske said he doesn’t fault the military for exposing U.S. troops to radiation, in the 50’s and 60’s, when people thought an atomic war might break out at any moment, but he questions the government’s current policies related to fair treatment for America’s Atomic Veterans, 50 + years after those experimental radiation exposure events. “Back then, they just didn’t know what they were doing.” he said. And now that it’s clear that serious mistakes were made, they are investing large sums of taxpayer dollars to avoid accepting any blame or responsibilities.

“ Until changes are incorporated, America’s Atomic Veterans still lie wounded, and are slowly dying on the battlefield of Congressional procrastination, and political indecision,” **Ritter** concluded.

We need your Good Samaritan Assistance

We need the help of our membership who may wish to consider an affordable, tax-exempt contribution to **NAAV** to support our Officers and Directors in following through on those important issues that impact the needs and requirements of America’s Atomic Veterans, and to properly pursue the development of a strong case for removing the **Dose Reconstruction** from the service connected claims approval process. Contributions can be forwarded to the address shown on the cover page of this issue. All contributors will be issued a receipt for (**I.R.S.**) charitable contribution purposes.

Current “ Presumptive “ Cancer List
[not subject to Dose Reconstruction qualifiers]

Section § 79.22 (b)

- (01) **Hodgkin’s disease,**
- (02) **Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia),**
Provided: (i) The claimant’s initial exposure occurred after the age of 20;
(ii) The onset of the disease was at least two years after first exposure;
- (03) **Lung cancer (other than in situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam);**
- (04) **Multiple myeloma*;**
- (05) **Lymphomas, other than Hodgkin’s disease*;**
- (06) **Primary cancer of the thyroid*;**
- (07) **Primary cancer of the male breast*;**
- (08) **Primary cancer of the female breast*;**
- (09) **Primary cancer of the esophagus*;**
- (10) **Primary cancer of the stomach*;**
- (11) **Primary cancer of the pharynx*;**
- (12) **Primary cancer of the small intestine*;**
- (13) **Primary cancer of the pancreas*;**
- (14) **Primary cancer of the bile ducts*;**
- (15) **Primary cancer of the gallbladder*;**
- (16) **Primary cancer of the salivary gland*;**
- (17) **Primary cancer of the urinary bladder*;**
- (18) **Primary cancer of the brain*;**
- (19) **Primary cancer of the colon*;**
- (20) **Primary cancer of the ovary*; or;**
- (21) **Primary cancer of the liver***
Provided; (i) There is no indication of the presence of hepatitis B; and
(ii) There is no indication of the presence of cirrhosis.

*** Must have developed 5+ years after the exposure event.**

How the aging process effects the height of your belt line !!!



Youth Adult Middle-age Old-age

Operation "CROSSROADS" 1946

Operation " **CROSSROADS**," under the command of Vice Admiral W.H.P. Blandy, was an atmospheric nuclear weapon test series conducted in the summer of 1946 at Bikini Island in the Pacific Marshall Islands chain.



Vice Admiral W.H.P. Blandy

Crossroads was a joint venture weapons test that included the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Air Forces, U.S. Army Ground Forces, and 42,000 military participants. The "**Crossroads**" test series was originally designed to include three nuclear weapon device detonations.

Crossroads was the first nuclear device testing exercise since the *World War II* bombing of the Empire of Japan, in August, 1945. The purpose of the "**Crossroads**" tests was to examine the weapons effects of nuclear detonations on naval vessels, planes, and test subject animals, rather than the behavioral tests of the original weapon design, as was the case with the **Trinity test**, on July 16, 1945, at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

A fleet of 71 U.S. Navy (surplus) and captured ships were anchored in the Bikini Island lagoon, for use as select targets. This fleet included a number of famous Allied and Axis vessels such as the Aircraft Carrier *USS Saratoga* (CV-3), the Battleships *USS Nevada* (BB-36), *USS Pennsylvania* (BB-38), *USS Arkansas* (BB-33), and the *USS New York* (BB-34). Also present was the German Heavy Cruiser *Prinz Eugen* and the Japanese Heavy Battleship *Nagato*.

Several animal species, including goats, sheep, pigs, and rabbits, were placed in cages, or tethered, on the decks of several of the test vessels, for the purposes of determining the effects of blast effects and radiation exposure from an atomic bomb detonation. The test weapons were both **Mk-3A**, **Model 1561**, plutonium (**PU-239**) fission core Atomic bombs.



Photo of "Able" from Crossroads observation aircraft

The first test, code named "**Able**", was an air drop, delivered over the target area by the B-29 Super-fortress, "**Dave's Dream**." It was detonated over the Bikini lagoon on June 30, 1946. Twenty-five days later, on July 25, 1946, a second device code named "**Baker**," anchored 90 feet below the lagoon surface, was

also detonated. Both test devices developed a destructive yield of **21 kilotons** (or 21 thousand tons) of **TNT**. These tests would provide important information on the nuclear weapons effects and survivability of warships, dependability of standard military issue equipment, and survivability of different species of animal life, in the event of nuclear war, as the Department of Defense (**DOD**) was most interested in the outcome of these experiments.

The third planned atomic weapon test, a deep underwater detonation, was canceled by Fleet Command, after the success of the **Baker** test. From a scientific point of view, technical experiments were also planned on nuclear weapon explosion phenomena and radiation contamination. In contrast to all later atmospheric nuclear tests, a large media contingent

8

was present for the two **Crossroads** detonations.

Quartered aboard *USS Appalachian* (AGC-1), were 131 newspaper, magazine, and radio correspondents from the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and Britain, all there to cover the detonations, which turned these experiments into a major media event.

Test "Able"

By sunset on June 29, the "**Crossroads**" support fleet had evacuated Bikini Island of all native inhabitants and military personnel. Likewise, all non-target vessels were also out to sea, at a perceived safe distance from the center of the "**Able**" detonation.

Left behind was the target fleet, full of darkened ships with their crew of test animals, awaiting their fate after dawn on the coming morning. Selected as ground zero for the "**Able**" the *USS Nevada* was painted bright orange, so as to assist the B-29 crew in clearly identifying their target



B-29 Bomber "Dave's Dream"

of intent, and to properly set up the bomb release aim point.

After the release, from the B-29, the weapon detonated 1,200 yards "off-target", and because of this error, the old Battlewagon survived the test, and (later,) would

also survive the "**Baker**" test, as well.

Given the total extent of radiation contamination, after the "**Baker**" test, the ship had to eventually be destroyed by gunfire and torpedoes in an exercise off the coast of Hawaii on July 31, 1948.

At 0900 on June 30th, "**Able**" detonated approximately 518 feet above the Bikini Island lagoon target fleet. The surface temperature of the resulting fireball was approximately 100,000 degrees Fahrenheit, scorching wood, paint and metal alike.

The bombing error, mentioned earlier, caused the "**Able**" device to explode almost directly over the attack transport *USS Gillian* (APA-57), which was completely flattened by the force of the blast, and sank in less than one minute.

The *USS Carlisle* (APA-69) was tossed 150 yards away from the blast. Battered, and on fire, the ship sank to the bottom of the lagoon shortly thereafter.

Sustaining severe superstructure and hull damage, the Japanese Heavy Cruiser *Sakawa*, sank the following morning.

The destroyer *USS Lamson* (DD-367), although moored over 600 yards from surface zero, suffered a severe explosion from the force of the "**Able**" bomb, and sank that afternoon. Later investigations discovered the blast wave had created a large steel plate wrinkle along the ship's entire hull. The



Able photo taken from Bikini Island

initial explosion and blast wave collided with the surface of the lagoon and was reflected back upwards. This deformed the shape of the fireball, creating the skirt around the stem of the mushroom cloud. The fireball surrounded by bomb

CROSSROADS, cont:

debris and water vapor began to rise into the sky, eventually to an altitude of approx. 18,000 ft.

Test "Baker"

The "Baker" test, was the one that was much publicized, written about, and



Condensation cloud forms around the "Baker" detonation fireball

shown in newsreels at movie theaters, at that time.

Unlike the "Able" post atmospheric explosion results, the "Baker" detonation started with a spray dome that appeared at the underwater site. Owing to the denser nature of the water, which quickly cooled the explosion, the initial fireball did not grow as large as that of the "Able" bomb.

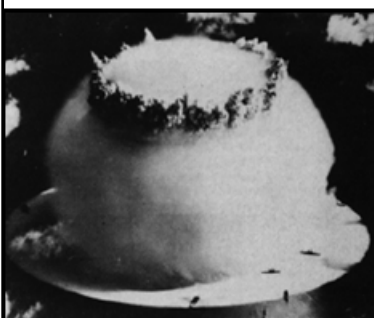
As the "Baker" blast breached the lagoon surface, the blast wave moved outward from the bottom at a ground speed of 180 mph, and as it began to rapidly rise, it changed shape from a sphere to a torroid, or donut shape. As it began to spread out it trans-phased into a vapor ball, and began to cool, thus producing the "mushroom" shape cap on top of the vapor cloud.

The "Baker" spray dome broke the lagoon surface near the USS *Arkansas*, and she sank very suddenly. The hot gases from the fireball broke the surface and instantly created the "puff-ball" effect, a consequence of the high moisture condensation factor (humidity) common to the Bikini Island site. and water vapor drawn upward from the lagoon, by the swiftly rising fireball.

While this occurred, the blast wave expanded rapidly and horizontally across the lagoon, the shock wave blasting through the anchored fleet of ships at the bottom of the rising cloud. The upward rising heat stem was composed mostly of surface material

As the hot gasses moved outward, they pulled a hollow water column, comprised of millions of gallons of water, up into the "heat-chute" towards the sky. The full formation of the "Baker" cloud only reached a height of 10,000 feet, significantly less than the *Able* cloud.

The downward blast energy wave reached to the floor of the lagoon, some 200 feet beneath the surface, and spewed bits and pieces of coral onto the decks of the target fleet. Millions of gallons of water hung in the atmosphere, where they mixed with fission particles and became a highly radioactive mist. The "Baker" blast caused a tidal wave that tossed landing



Ariel view of Baker test showing cauliflower "crown" of seawater

craft onto the Island beach. Although the Navy mounted an extraordinary effort to save the USS *Saratoga*, the war ship was too contaminated to conduct extensive damage control procedures and she eventually sank.

And so it was, after a long and impressive war record, the USS *Saratoga* quietly

slipped below the waves, eventually resting upright on the bottom of the lagoon where she could be seen from the surface, one of the legends of the Pacific war. Her loss was keenly felt by all of the officers and men who were a part of Operation *Crossroads*.

The 32,000 ton former Japanese battleship *Nagato*, despised by the sailors at Bikini for it's role as flagship of the Pearl Harbor attack force, was still afloat after the *Baker* blast. Navy divers had strapped mines to her sides to help facilitate her rapid sinking.

Although both the *Able* and *Baker* blasts heavily damaged the ship, the *Nagato* finally sunk to the bottom of the lagoon five days after the *Baker* blast. Today, the *Nagato* lies alongside the USS *Saratoga* and the USS *Arkansas*.

Given the "Able" and "Baker" tests, serious radioactive contamination of the entire lagoon occurred, with dangerously high (lethal) radiation exposure measurements of 730 rem recorded at the surface, near the detonation points, within the first 24 hours. Bikini Island, some three miles from surface zero could not be safely inhabited in the near term future.

The only bright spot of the "Crossroad" experience, for most of those military personnel assigned to the test series, was the "Cross Spikes Club," an improvised adult beverage hangout, and one of the only places where "Crossroads" military personnel could find entertainment and stress relieving libations, during their June to September, 1946 stay at Bikini Island, the hottest spot in the Western Pacific, in 1946.

More than half of the 42,000 personnel, who took part in the "Crossroads" A-bomb tests have since died from illnesses precipitated by their exposure to ionizing radiation particles from those test detonations, or from secondary exposure, while carrying out their post test duty assignments. Those surviving military veterans of Operation "Crossroads" are now in their mid 70's and early 80's, many of whom are also suffering the from the long term effects of ionizing radiation exposure.

There are many widows of those deceased "Crossroads" veterans, who continue to tell the stories of their husband's experiences at Bikini Island, in the Western Pacific Ocean, in 1946.

Who among those in Congress are willing to speak up, and offer just and proper assistance to those surviving veterans of the "Crossroads" experiments? Who among those in Congress will also be willing to speak up for the rest of America's Atomic (bomb) Veterans, as well?



Crossroads "Baker" A-bomb photographed from Bikini Island

NAAV MEDICAL HISTORY DATABASE INFORMATION

By: Dick Conant, Custodia

Becky Miller, Asst. Custodian

The **NAAV** medical history database was established and maintained for statistical purposes only. Member names or personal information is not given released under any circumstance. The database is not utilized as a locator source. Locator & reporter / writer inquiries are referred to the **NAAV** National Commander.

In order to maintain and update membership personal files, the Questionnaire Forms should be utilized and submitted for proper record keeping and statistical purposes. The two page questionnaires can be downloaded from the **NAAV** website at: www.naav.com, or can be furnished by e-mail request to the Med. D. B. Custodians. Contacts for all Med. D.B. inquiries should be directed to:

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11214 Sageland
Houston, Tx. 77089
cmdr@naav.com

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Rebecca " Becky " Miller
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Winter Park, FL 32792
beckymiller266@aol.com

A summary of more recent statistical reports include:

Details of deaths & the cause of deaths on personnel assigned to ships involved in *Operation "Crossroads"*. A Listing of participants was submitted to be utilized for these purposes. Some of the information on the list required further verification, and other data entries required additional information, as well. These database records assist us in trending apparent illness statistics for a given test operation series. We look forward to working with you in the continued development of such statistics.

MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE REQUEST

Our current membership roster is evenly split between **LIFE** members and *Annual-Dues* paying members.

Given this situation, our annual operating fund is in a state of flux, and barely allows for our current monetary commitments, with little, or no wiggle room for unexpected expenses required for proper **NAAV** membership representation.

We ask all members to review their current " paid to " status, as shown on your newsletter mailing label. Your current membership "paid to " date will be the numbers following your name on the label.

For example, if the numbers following your name is 01-01-05, you are paid to January 1, 2005. You will also notice that your new membership card will now have a "paid to" date, as well. If the date on your card does not match the date on the label, the card date will be the correct paid to date.

We ask that you consider sending in your past membership dues so as to be current. It is these dues that allow us the freedom to continue to represent America's Atomic Veterans to the fullest extent.

If you find paying back dues to be a financial burden, we will upgrade your membership, as a renewal, provided you fill in a new application form, and forward to headquarters with a (\$40.00) check or money order.

This is your way of supporting our efforts to assist you and your fellow Atomic Veterans in the **DVA** service connected claims process, and in keeping you informed of current events in these areas of mutual interest and concern.

From: John Bianco (Operation Castle)

I was assigned to the *USS Philip (DDE-498)*, and was on the ship during the Bravo shot. We were caught in the middle of the fallout pattern, and were exposed to more than 750rem. We were then ordered to "Arongelap" to evacuate the natives that were so sick, they had to be assisted in getting aboard our ship.

We then had them strip down and shower, under the supervision of their tribal Chief, and our on-board Medic's. We also picked up some military personnel who were sending up weather balloons. We then transferred them to Enewetak, after which, we were then ordered out to sea patrol in an area far enough away from the testing, so as not to be exposed to any more radiation fallout. I would like to hear from anyone else who was in Operation Castle. I can be reached at:

harbor_lights517@yahoo.com



SEABEES

*In this NAAV issue
we wish to convey our
special appreciation to the*



SEABEES

*United States Navy
Construction Battalion " Atomic Veterans "*

- - - NEW MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE - - -

We all belong to more than one Military Fraternal organization, or group. If all current **NAAV** members would make an effort to " sign-on " only one (1) fellow atomic veteran, (who may have been assigned duty where the potential for exposure to radiation from nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, or Depleted Uranium munitions, from 1945 to date,) we would realize a substantial increase in new members and much needed operating cash flow.

I have set a goal of **500** new members for the **2006** calendar year, and challenge our current membership to attempt to meet that goal, as may be possible, given their ability and free time to do so.

The **Word for the Day** is " Lets go forth and spread the word to other Atomic-Veterans. " Are you willing to take up the challenge ?

By golly, I'll bet you are !!

*Have a seat Kermit. What I 'm about to tell you
might come as a great big shock !!*



Operation "Frigate Bird" - 1962



USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608)

Operating in the Pacific, as a unit of *Joint Task Force 8*, and as a key player in Operation "*Frigate-Bird*," the **USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608)** fired the first (and only) nuclear-armed **POLARIS** missile, on *May 6, 1962*. It's **700** kiloton warhead successfully detonated at the end of the planned and programmed flight path just off the coast of Christmas Island, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1962, the (Cold War) nuclear arms race between the United States and Russia was in full bloom, and Submarine launched *Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's)* were in fast production by both countries.

The United States had approached a point where a long range test utilizing a live **ICBM**, launched from beneath the surface of the ocean, with a " hot " nuclear warhead, was justified to determine both performance and accuracy. Thus, Operation "*Frigate Bird* " remains the sole and only successful and complete "end-to-end" operational test of a strategic Submarine launched nuclear weapon system.

The launch area was 1,500 nautical miles east-north-east of Christmas Island (south and west of Hawaii,) with the impact area in the open ocean 10 nautical miles off the southwest



Capt. Paul Lacy

coast of Christmas Island. During the test, the *Ethan Allen* launched a single **Polaris A-1** missile, armed with a **700** kiloton nuclear warhead.

The launch ship was accompanied by the *USS Norton Sound (AVM-1)* serving as both Flagship and Range Safety Vessel, and a small fleet of surface support ships, including the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown (CV-10)*. Also assigned to downrange observation duties were the *USS Medregal (SS-480)* and the *USS Carbonero (SS-337)*, both diesel powered submarines.

The submarines were assigned positions in close proximity to



Capt. Lacy at periscope

the downrange target detonation point, so as to be able to take clear photographs of the post detonation mushroom cloud.

The missile flight and trajectory path was entirely successful, including detonation of the nuclear warhead at the intended target point. Operation "*Frigate Bird*" proved conclusively that

the newly developed submarine launched **ICBM** missile program had the capability to deliver a nuclear warhead's design yield in its full service environment, over long distances, with a great deal of accuracy and destructive force.

Task Force 8 had originally scheduled the "*Frigate Bird* " shot for May 5, 1962, but dry runs with *Ethan Allen* on the 3rd and 4th of May revealed a host of long-range communication problems between the launch area and Christmas Island. This setback necessitated having to delay the firing by a full day, while Pacific Fleet Command selected a more reliable communication frequency so as to safely conduct the test firing and detonation operation.

On the morning of May 6th., as the accompanying

Destroyers and the Carrier's air groups performed range safety and security functions, the *Ethan Allen* submerged to her assigned operational firing depth.

Adverse weather in the impact area delayed the start of the initial countdown for approximately two hours, during which time the missile safety systems had, by then, been switched to internal battery power. All personnel were on standby for further



The Polaris ICBM breaches the surface seconds after being launched from the USS Ethan Allen

actions. Finally, the countdown was started and had reached within 30 seconds of launching the primary missile, when the fire control system bypassed the first weapon because of a "muzzle hatch" limit-switch failure and cued up a second *Polaris* missile.

Given the continued mechanical difficulties encountered by the *Ethan Alan* firing program protocols, the backup missile was also bypassed, because of a false "safe - ready" indication, and although both problems were easily corrected, Adm. Mustin (test coordinator,) declared a range safety hold, so as to be sure that all observation aircraft , in the impact area, were still correctly positioned.

Then, just before the newly scheduled launch time, the weather deteriorated in the firing area, and a further hold was imposed. By this time, the batteries in the onboard tracking-beacon and destruct systems of the first two missiles were running down, which necessitated replacing them before the final countdown could be resumed.

But, just as that procedure was getting underway, favorable cloud conditions materialized overhead, and the decision was quickly taken to fire the third of the four test missiles on hand, and in the test rack.



Photographer taking pictures of the "Frigate Bird" launch

Following only a short delay caused by a minor hydraulic problem, *Ethan Allen* successfully launched this third weapon, somewhat after 1400 (launch area time.) Safety considerations demanded that the missile be "acquired" by the tracking system before it disappeared into the usual low-lying clouds. Thus, as soon

Frigate-Bird cont:

as the Polaris ICBM broke the surface of the Ocean, the USS Norton Sound trained her tracking radars at the rapidly rising missile and locked on.

As the weapon disappeared down-range, all indications were that the trajectory and flight time would fall within programmed trajectory limits. Downrange, all ships and

aircraft began their respective countdowns, to the moment that the streaking missile would announce it's arrival on target.

Given a range of approximately 1,500 miles and an apogee of roughly 400 miles, flight time to the point of detonation was on the order of 12.5 minutes. At approximately 1330 local time in the sky above 4° 50' North, 149° 25' West, a brilliant, 700 kiloton nuclear flash briefly overpowered the equatorial glare, and was quickly followed by a roiling fireball and giant symmetrical mushroom shaped cloud, suffused initially with a rosy glow.

Surface observers 120 miles away saw the flash and then a huge fireball several degrees above the horizon, that appeared to be about the size of a rising sun. The atomic cloud then

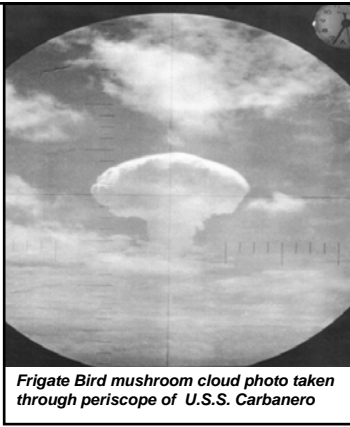
began to dispersed its compact structure as it began to drift away to the east, gradually rising to great heights.

Thus, Operation "Frigate-Bird" became a powerful moment in the history of the development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile proven technology.

The USS Ethan Allen was commanded by Captain Paul Lacy. The Dept. of Defense also assigned Adm. Levering Smith, to the Ethan Allen, for the purposes of observing the actual "live launch" procedures utilized for the "Frigate-Bird" ICBM test shot.

Admiral Smith would later remark that the programmed flight was "right in the middle of the pickle barrel." To date, this is the only complete sub-surface launch and proof test of a U.S. strategic ICBM missile.

Given the Atmospheric Nuclear Weapons Test Ban Treaty of 1963, signed by the U.S., Russia and the United Kingdom, the chances of similar tests are remote, unless another serious nuclear war is threatened by a rogue nation. It is well to note that France and China did not sign on to the Test Ban Treaty, and continued to engage in atmospheric testing for several additional years, beyond 1963.



Frigate Bird mushroom cloud photo taken through periscope of U.S.S. Carbanero



The 700 kt "Frigate Bird" cloud viewed by observers on Christmas Island.



Ethan Allen "Boat" Patch

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS WELCOME

We welcome your participation in the preparation of our NAAV periodic newsletter. If you have a particular operation or test of interest, or if you wish to make comments about your own experiences as they relate to a particular test or series of tests, please send us a letter with your request or the written details of your experiences.

We will be pleased to do some research on any of the Atomic Weapons tests sponsored by the United States, or any other country, for the purposes of informing and updating our members and readership.

We do ask that you include your full name, address, phone number, branch of service, unit, ship, squadron or other military identification data, and that you sign the request for published information or data.

The **National Association of Atomic Veterans** was founded in 1979, for the purposes of providing a strong and collective voice to express the constant strife and frustrations experienced by America's Atomic Veterans, when seeking just compensation and fair medical assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and their own U.S. Government. This is the same Government that was responsible for placing them in harm's way, in the name of U.S. National Security, and for mandating that they take an oath of secrecy, so as to not reveal any of the details of their radiation exposure events, for years after the fact.



"Here are the newly issued combat fatigues. The design is a extremely unusual, but they are remarkably resilient to repeated explosions."





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Atomic Veteran Certificate (Four color for framing) \$ 10.00

Note: Include your name as you want it shown, your service branch, ship, squadron or unit description and the atomic test series you participated in.

Atomic Test Detonation Photo (Color - for framing) \$ 10.00

Note: We will attempt to get a photo of the actual test you were involved with, however, if not, we will supply a photo of a test that is available from the Operation series.



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First Name, Initial		Last Name		Spouse	
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Branch of Service	Ship or Unit or Squadron				
Atomic Test Name	Test Location			Test Date / Yr	
Other radiation exposure events experienced in while in the military or as a civilian					
Illnesses suffered by you , your children or your grandchildren. (Use back of this form, if required)					
If you wish to list any claims you have filed with the V.A., you may do so on the back of this form					
If the atomic veteran is deceased, send copy of death certificate and prior illnesses. If someone else is filling out this form for an atomic veteran, show full address on back.					
NAAV may publish the above information.	Yes	Signature:			Date:
	No				

ANNUAL membership dues are \$ 20.00

LIFE membership dues are \$ 200.00

LIFE dues can be paid in \$ 25.00 monthly installments within a 12 month period.
 Please send money orders or personal checks only. Our web site will accept credit cards
 We welcome you as a new member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.

Your (tax exempt) contributions and donations support our continued efforts to assist all of America's Atomic Veterans, including those veterans who were exposed to Depleted Uranium munitions during and after the Gulf Wars. These veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation while proudly serving our country continue to need our help and assistance.

R. J. Ritter
 National Commander



From the Grapevine:

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense. Mr. Sense had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound, financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge). His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned, but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student; but, could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge financial settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers; My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on; if not, join the majority and do nothing. Was his demise justified ????

“ Meet with us in St. Louis “

The next NAAV annual Convention will be held at the **Clarion Motel**, 4545 N. Lindberg Blvd., (St. Louis Airport, North) St. Louis, MO. 63044, on September 24, 25, 26, 2006. A block of rooms will be held for pre-registration attendees. You must call the Clarion Motel (314-731-2100) on / or before 15:30 on August 24, 2006, so as to be assured a room at the special NAAV rate of **\$79.00** per night, plus applicable taxes.

Registration will begin on the evening of Sunday Sept. 24th. Checkout will be on the morning of Wednesday Sept. 27th.

The registration fee for the Convention only, will be **\$40.00** per person. The Banquet fee will also be **\$40.00** per person.

If you are planning to attend the 2006 Convention, please fill in the information data sheet below and mail as directed. Please indicate the meal selection you will require. If your register more than one person for the banquet, please indicate the choice of meals for each. You can do this with an attached note, if required. It is important for us to know, in advance, the number of attendees so as to properly plan our schedules accordingly.



NAAV 2006 (St. Louis, MO.) Convention Registration Information Form

Member name: _____ Atomic Test Operation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

I will be registering _____ persons for:

Convention only: _____ Convention & Banquet: _____ Banquet only: _____

I (we) will be arriving on: _____ I (we) will depart on: _____

Advanced Registration fees:

Convention only \$ 40.00 / person

Convention + Banquet: \$ 80.00 / person

Banquet only: \$ 40.00 / per person

Total mount enclosed with my registration application: \$ _____

Please mail your registration form and check to: **NAAV 2439 E. 47TH STREET TULSA, OK. 74105-5173**

Operation "Wigwam" - 1955



It was on the early afternoon of (ATF-92) became the first

May 14, 1955 that the USS Tawasa (and only) US Navy vessel in

history, to be physically attached to a **Mk 90, B-7 Betty, 30 kiloton Atomic Bomb** at the time of detonation. The test occurred off the Pacific coast of California, and was code named "**Operation Wigwam.**" It was the culmination of a plan developed by the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)**, the **Department of Defense (DOD)**, and the **Scripps Oceanographic Institute**, to test and measure the destructive forces of a large underwater nuclear weapon on submarines, pre-positioned at various depths and distances from the center of detonation. The **Wigwam** nuclear weapon test would be the **65th** (of a total of **1,149**) nuclear weapon detonation since the birth of the age of atomic weapons on **July 16, 1945**, at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

The **Wigwam** Project Director was Dr. Alfred Focke, a Navy explosives expert assigned to the Scripps Oceanographic Institute, San Diego, Ca. His military assistant was Cmdr. Roger Revelle, a former Navy expert in the oceanographic aspects of atomic testing, having participated in **Operations Crossroads** (1946), **Sandstone** (1948), and **Greenhouse** (1951).

Other team members included Navy Cap. Jack Loffland, two marine biologists from Scripps, and Dr. W. R. Boss, an official from the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)**. Rear Admiral John Sylvester was assigned by the **DOD** to command and oversee the entire test operation. Sylvester's command included **26** Navy ships, **5** Scripps research vessels, **36** Navy & Air Force surveillance aircraft, and **6,700** military personnel and three (test subject) submarines containing special monitoring instruments.

Many of those military (and civilian) personnel who participated in **Operation Wigwam** have since succumbed to illnesses precipitated by their exposure to ionizing radiation from "hot" seawater, airborne particles and post test events, (secondary radiation exposure exercises and maneuvers.) The U.S. Government and Veteran's Administration has continued to deny all but a few claims for radiation induced cancers and other illnesses experienced by Wigwam participants, citing official **DOD** statements which minimizes the "apparent degree of radiation exposure." This response has been commonplace for all of the atmospheric and underwater test operation, from 1945 to 1962. **NAAV Inc.** is working closely with other military groups to convince the U.S. Government to change it's position related to these matters, before there no Atomic Veterans left to submit any additional radiation illness claims.



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