

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
- 1953 "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"
JOHNSTON ISLAND
- 1958 "ARGUS"
SOUTH ATLANTIC
- 1958 "HARDTACK-II"
NEVADA TEST SITE
- 1961 "NOUGAT"
NEVADA TEST SITE
- 1962 "DOMINIC-I"
CHRISTMAS ISLAND
JOHNSTON ISLAND
- 1965 "FLINTLOCK"
AMCHITKA, ALASKA
- 1969 "MANDREL"
AMCHITKA, ALASKA
- 1971 "GROMMET"
AMCHITKA, ALASKA
- 1974 "POST TEST EVENTS"
ENEWETAK CLEANUP

" IF YOU WERE THERE,
YOU ARE AN
ATOMIC VETERAN "



N A A V

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.

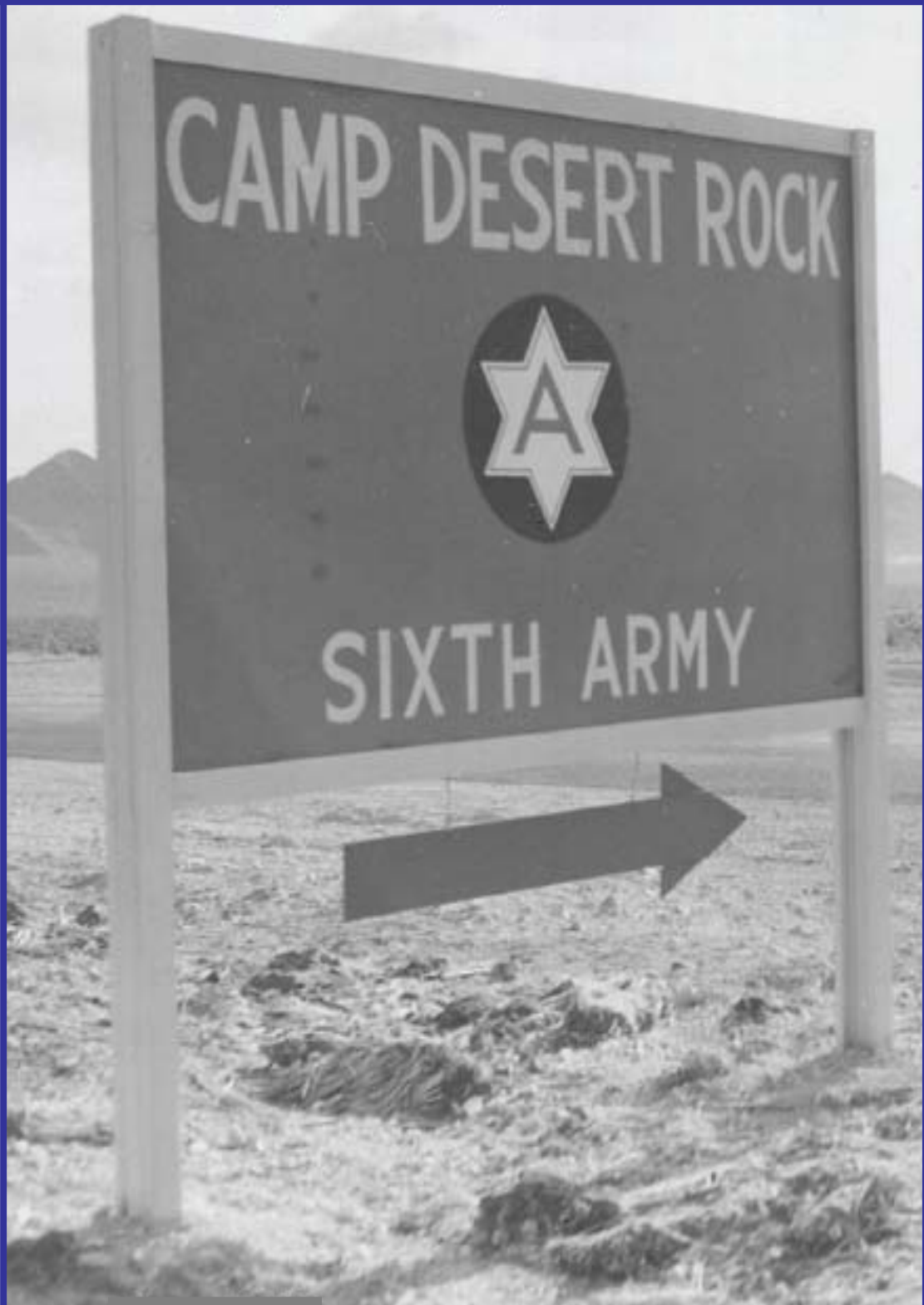
"Assisting America's (secret) Wounded Warriors Since 1979"

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R. J. RITTER - Editor

March. 2013



The Newsletter for America's Atomic Veterans



COMMANDER'S MEMO

We continue to receive phone calls & e-mails in response to the "outreach" exposure from recent articles in the **VFW**, **AARP** and **MOAA** magazines. And, the Dept. of Justice continues to refer inquiries, for claim qualification info, to our phone number !! We have adequately responded to all such requests, and have since received numerous (follow up) calls, informing us of the approval of **RECA** benefits - paid to a surviving Atomic-Veteran, or to the widow (or children) of a deceased Atomic-Veteran. It is our understanding that the **DOJ** has now paid out more than **\$50** million in (**RECA**) compensation awards accordingly.

As an added result of those outreach efforts, we have reestablished contact with (and re-instated), more than **200** (**NAAV**) Life members who had changed address (without notification) or who thought we were no longer active. After **30** years of struggles, **NAAV** has finally been able to connect Atomic-Vet's (or their surviving families) with long overdue compensation awards. Our thanks and best wishes are extended to all those who have assisted us in these efforts. We still struggle with Congress in our efforts to get them to award some sort of (proper-recognition) "**Atomic-Veteran-Medal.**" Well, we had a saying when I was out on (Navy) Search, Rescue & Salvage duty (in the 1950's) - "**The difficult we'll do now - the impossible takes a little longer.**" Given the number of years we have been waiting for Congress to get serious about that medal, I think "longer" is almost ready to expire . . .

Additionally, the costs of responding to more than **29,000** phone calls, e-mails & snail mail requests for compensation information & details, our operating funds have been grossly impacted. So, if you happen to know of a source for (tax exempt) monetary assistance that will allow us to continue our "outreach" efforts, and the publishing of our periodic (Atomic-Veteran) newsletter, we would indeed be most grateful. As always, we respond to such assistance with letters-of-thanks & our tax number for such purposes

... URGENT MEETING NOTICE ...

The Veterans Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (**VBDR**) meeting, previously scheduled for March 22 (2013) in Albuquerque, N.M. has been rescheduled for **July 23 (2013)** at the **Arlington, VA. Hilton Hotel**. It appears that this will be the last (official) meeting of the **VBDR**, therefore; we invite all Atomic-Veterans, who may be able to attend, to do so, as this will be your last opportunity to visit with all of the Board members, and it will also provide an opportunity for **V-Vets** to get together and swap old "nuke-warfare" stories. Until then, I extend my best wishes all of America's surviving Atomic-Veterans, and the families of all for deceased Atomic-Veteran brothers-in-arms

THIS IS HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN IRAN BUILDS A NUKE



Final Muster



Members of the Atomic-Veteran community are dying off at the rate of 1,600 per month. . . . We are not privy to all of their names, or place of residence. To properly bestow our respects and to share the grief experienced by their respective families, we ask our members to observe a special moment of silence so as to properly recognize & give thanks for their dedication and honorable service, to their God, their families and their Country.



"Rest in peace, our Atomic-Veteran friends."



RECYCLED RADIATION

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Bicycle baskets and tissue box covers are the latest in commercial products found to be contaminated with radioactive Cobalt-60. The stainless steel baskets, assembled between November 2011 and January, 2012 were made in China, and sent to Japan. Nearly 10,000 (**Jobno**) bicycles are being recalled because of the radiation danger, but 20,000 bikes with the "hot" baskets have already been sold to unsuspecting buyers

Of those, 3,200 were assembled during the same period. The radioactive tissue box covers were found at two Bed, Bath & Beyond stores in Westchester County, N.Y. The Westchester County Department of Health was notified and worked with State and Federal authorities to deal with the hazard. The product, a Dual Ridge Boutique tissue box cover, model number DR-9-M, had also been available on the company's website, officials said. . . .

Cobalt-60 is a radioactive isotope created only inside production reactors, and used in some medical radiation treatments and some sterilization systems for foods and instruments. On January 10, the **NRC** notified Bed Bath & Beyond of the danger, after a truck carrying a shipment in California set off a radiation monitor. However; 12 contaminated boxes were said to have been shipped to New York before the notification. In addition to the eight boxes traced to Westchester, officials said two others were traced to a store in Nassau County, and two others were sent to a store in Suffolk County, although none of the four contaminated items in those counties were sold. . . .

United Press International - January 16, 2012

BRITISH TEST (TRIDENT) BALLISTIC MISSILE

Florida Coast, Atlantic Ocean - On October 23, 2012 Britain conducted it's first missile test in three years, from the **HMS Vigilant**, near the coast of Florida. The Vigilant is one of Britain's four ballistic missile submarines which are modeled after the U.S. **Trident** subs. The location of **Vigilant's** (unarmed) test launch was a show of force reportedly aimed at Iran and Argentina. . . .

The 7,000 mile range of **Vigilant's** Trident-II submarine launched ballistic missiles are a clear threat to Iran, 6,200 nautical miles from the test site, and to Argentina, the U.K's principle critic in South America, 4,000 miles from the firing point. The hotly contested ownership of the Malvinas / Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina heated up again this past summer, when British companies began exploring for oil & gas in the contested nearby areas

In 1982, the two waged an undeclared war over control of the islands, and now with liquid gold at stake, the Royal Navy had decided on a serious "pay-attention" demonstration. In the bizarre, self-justifying world of nuclear threats, made by nuclear armed states against non-nuclear ones, First Sea Lord Admiral - **Sir Mark Stanhope**, who put the video on You-Tube, said the test shows "*our nation's commitment to the preservation of a genuine peace in our uncertain world.*" Speaking of "aggression from over the water" on the 30th anniversary of the way, U.K. Prime Minister **David Cameron** said, "*Accusations of militarization and nuclear threats are hyperbole and propaganda*"

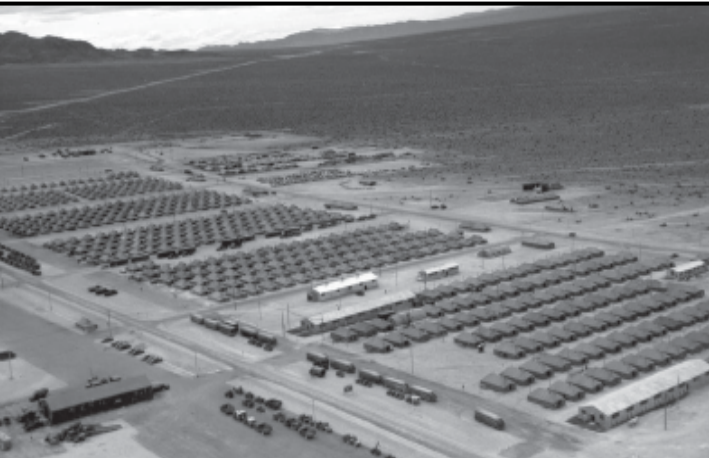
Camp Desert Rock, Nevada



By: Lt. Col. Danny M. Johnson (U.S. Army – Ret.)

On 18 December 1958, President Harry S. Truman gave his approval to use a portion of the U.S. Air Force's Las Vegas Bombing & Gunnery Range, in Southeastern Nevada, for the atmospheric testing of atomic bombs and other newly developed nuclear weapon devices. Given this approval, construction of the Nevada Test Site (NTS), originally known as the Nevada Proving Ground (NPG), began in January 1951. Shortly thereafter, construction began on what would become known as Camp Desert Rock.

The name evolved from "Exercise Desert Rock," a pre-planned series of atmospheric nuclear weapon tests to be conducted at the NTS, the first of which would be Operation "Ranger," (October 1951) followed by Operations "Buster" and "Jangle" (November 1951). This site included Yucca & Frenchman Flats, Paiute & Rainer Mesas, and Camp Desert Rock, which would be used by the Sixth Army in the 1950's to house troops who would be assigned to participate in "Atomic-Warfare" games & exercises, using real "live" nukes !!!



CAMP DESERT ROCK - 1952

Designed as a military support facility for NTS, Camp Desert Rock began as a temporary camp site, originally part of the NPG. It was located just off Hwy 95, twenty three miles west of Indian Springs, Nevada and assigned to Sixth Army effective 12 September 1951. . . .

Headquarters, III Corps, Sixth Army, chose an area approx. two miles southwest of Camp Mercury (also a part of the NTS) which housed the operating & living quarters for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the various Scientific teams responsible for setting up and monitoring the atomic device test schedules. . . .

This site was in the center of the Mercury Valley, and was bordered by the Spring Mountains and the Spotted Range towards the north and east of the Specter Range, to the west. The Army acquired 23,058 acres for Camp Desert Rock from the Dept. of the Interior, on 5 September 1951. . . .

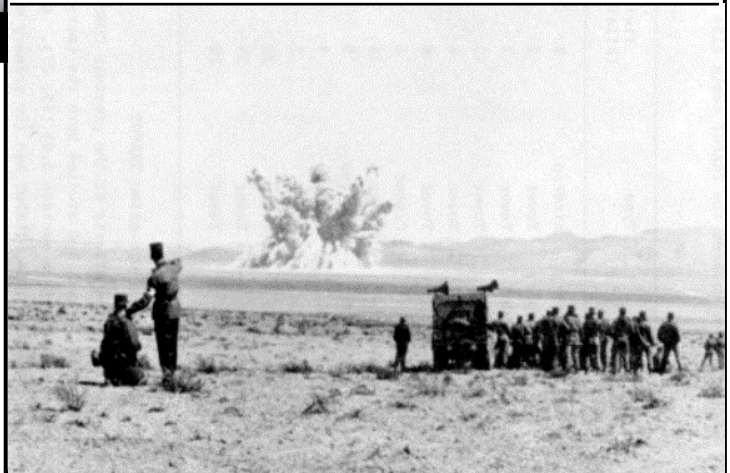
After completion, and from the fall of 1951 to the fall of 1992, the Army was the host manager for "guest" (atomic exercise) troops, from all four Service branch's. These exercises included test troops in trench's & above ground, and the use of field artillery, tanks, transport vehicles, aircraft, building structures and various types of battlefield equipment & gear, for the purposes of exploring the effects of blast overpressure forces, heat, and radiation from the detonation of a nuclear weapon. .



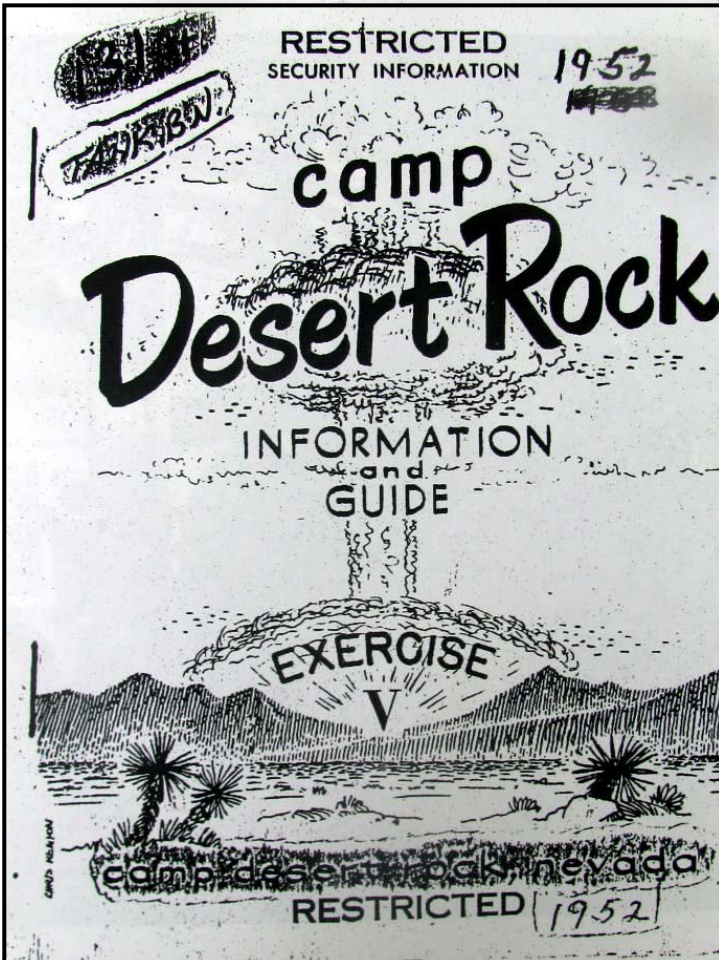
After completion of each atomic exercise, the camp adhered to radiological safety measures (applicable at that time) throughout it's use. In 1951, the Army, working closely with the AEC, carried out the Desert Rock exercises to "dispel much of the fear and uncertainty surrounding atomic radiation and the effects of Gamma and X-rays." Much would be learned about the long term harmful effects, and deleterious health effects experienced by those test troops, many years later. . .

The initial construction for Camp Desert Rock (CDR) was accomplished by the 231st Engineer Combat Battalion, a North Dakota Army National Guard unit, mobilized in September 1950 for the Korean War and based out of Fort Lewis, Wa. The battalion's mission was to establish, build, and maintain the camp, and to construct field fortifications at the atomic test sites.

The 90th. Engineer Water Supply Company handled the camp's water needs, to include running water from a 190,000 gallon storage tank, and several permanent type latrines with showers, flush toilets, and wash basins. Temporary sumps for garbage disposal were build by the 597th. Engineer Light Equipment Company. . . .



ARMY CONSTRUCTION BATTALLION PERSONNEL OBSERVE A (1951) CONVENTIONAL MUNITION TEST AT YUCCA FLATS.



Within the first six months of existence, **CDR** had grown from a few tents to a relatively comfortable, semi-permanent tent camp with many modern amenities. It has two permanent buildings for mess-halls, each of which could accommodate 500 soldiers, electricity to all parts of the camp, from nearby Camp Mercury, and telephone, telegraph, and teletype facilities. A sewage system also ran throughout the permanent part of the camp. In addition, the camp featured a permanent training auditorium with seating for 400, a post exchange housed in a Quonset hut, and a framed and floored tent area to house test troops. . . .



BUDDY ROBINSON (A COMEDIAN FROM LAS VEGAS) PERFORMS FOR DESERT ROCK TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE 1957 PLUMBBOB TESTS

Later improvements consisted of a 5,000 foot airstrip, an upgraded sewer system, dozens of semi-permanent buildings, including Quonset and Butler type steel buildings, over 500 concrete tent pads, and trailers for housing, administration, storage, and other uses . .

There were chapels, an open air theater with wooden bleachers and an elevated stage, a barber shop, and a (most appreciated) beer tent. The open-theater housed entertainers from Las Vegas, who came out to Camp Desert Rock to perform for the troops. The camp had it's own telephone system nicknamed the "Camp Desert Rock Telephone Company." By the time Exercise "Desert-Rock VI" had started (in 1954), the camp had grown to 133 semi-permanent buildings and more than 500 framed squad tents. . .

Large prefabricated buildings were built to serve as Signal & Quartermaster warehouses. The ordnance yard gained a pair of prefabricated storage buildings. A helicopter landing area, next to the airstrip, was added for storing, maintaining and refueling "choppers" prior to scheduled "atomic-warfare" exercises. Many of these (later) improvements to Camp Desert Rock were carried out by the Shore Battalion, 369th. Engineer Amphibious Support Regiment, 95th. Engineer Construction, 412th. Engineer Construction, and 314th. Signal Construction Battalions, some of whom are shown below. . . .



In October 1951, as part of Operation Buster-Jangle, the Army and the AEC prepared to test the ability of men and machines to move through "ground-zero" within minutes after the detonation of the nuclear (test) bomb. The first shot did not involve "live" troops. Instead, various types of military equipment, including Jeeps, trucks, tanks, personnel carriers, and half-tracks were to be used. Some were buried to various depths, at distances ranging from two hundred yards to three miles from ground zero, while others were completely exposed to the heat, blast (shock) and radiation exposure effects. . . .



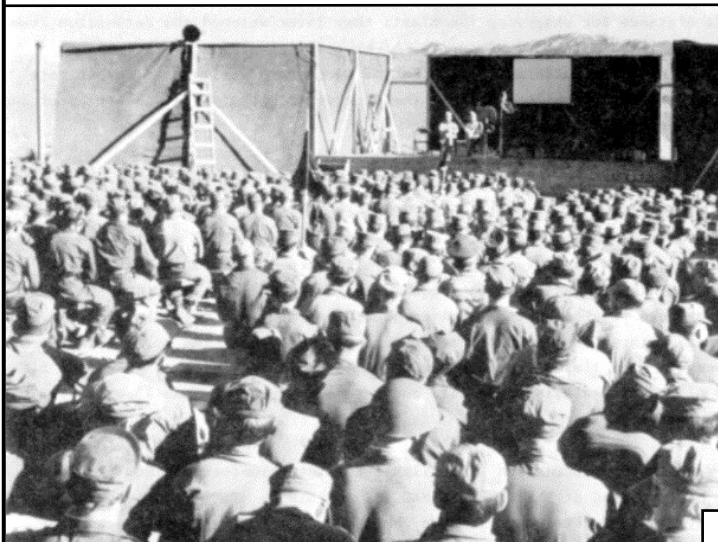
THE REMAINS OF TANKS, FIELD ARTILLERY, TRANSPORT TRUCKS AND AIRCRAFT ARE EXAMINED AFTER A (1952) NUKE TEST. .



IN LAS VEGAS, A SHOWGIRL, NAMED "DIXIE" IS PHOTOGRAPHED DOING A "HIGH-KICK" WHILE AT THE NTS, THE RISING MUSHROOM CLOUD FROM A NUKE TEST (NAMED "DIXIE") APPEARS TO BE BALANCED ON HER RIGHT HAND . . . GREAT TIMING !!!

In addition to observing nuclear detonations, troops received training in radiation and nuclear weapons effects. Personnel assigned to the camp were provided with booklets that explained the importance of secrecy. They were prohibited from discussing any aspect of any nuclear test, including military maneuvers, or any effects they may have felt, or experienced from such tests. Additionally, they were warned about the dangers of poisonous snakes, insects & scorpions, found in the Nevada desert region, but the more deadly danger of exposure to radiation & radio-nuclides was rarely discussed!!!

One training film said that radiation was "the least important effect" from the tests, and that it was fatal only within a mile of the detonation point. The men were taught that they could "live through an atomic attack and live to fight another day", and that a nuclear explosion "is one of the most beautiful sights ever seen by man." They were constantly lectured, with incorrect information & secrecy threats, as shown below. . . .



Exercise Desert Rock (CDR) operations were staffed and administered by the Sixth Army's III Corps. Exercise troops were assigned to CDR for periods lasting several weeks to participate in a particular military "Nuclear-Warfare" training program. Operation "Ranger" & "Buster-Jangle", a series of 11 nuclear tests, in 1951, were the first nuclear weapon detonation activities, during which a large number of troops assigned to CDR received realistic training in the tactical aspects of nuclear battlefield warfare. . . .

Over 6,500 troops, including those from the Army's Atomic Maneuver Battalion, took part in the Buster-Jangle operation. Additional tests, that were performed, from 1951 to 1962, measured the blast effects on buildings, vehicles and various weapon systems, as well as animals, that were placed at various distances from "ground-zero," some of whom were half "roasted" by the blast heat, or stunned by the pressure shock effect. . . .

Original plans called for the Army to dismantle CDR following the Buster-Jangle test series, and return all support units to their home stations. Instead, the Army ultimately chose to keep the camp open as a permanent installation to support additional nuclear test activities. Immediately after the (Plumbbob) "Galileo" shot, on October 07, 1957, the camp reverted to standby status, with a small caretaker staff remaining at the post. . . .



GROUND-ZERO APPROACH NIGHT MANEUVERS WERE ALSO A "CAMP-DESERT-ROCK" MANDATE, AS SHOWN HERE. . .

After the suspension of aboveground testing, in 1962, the camp ceased operation as an Army sub-installation, effective June 18, 1964. Many of the camp's structures were moved to other parts of the Nevada Test Site (NTS). . . .

The AEC resurfaced and enlarged the Desert Rock airstrip in 1969, extending the runway to a length of 7,500 feet. Although this airstrip was originally build to serve the NTS, it is currently an emergency landing site for any aircraft. Later additions included the National Weather Service facility and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Surface Radiation (SURFRAD) station. . . .

In August 2010, the NTS was renamed the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Most of the remaining Camp Desert Rock facilities, except the airstrip, were dismantled and salvaged for scrap. Today, the camp's remains are located on Department of Energy (DOE) property. . . .



More than 87,000 military personnel were assigned to participate in "atmospheric" nuclear tests and Camp Desert Rock atomic-warfare assignments, as indicated in the above photo. From January 27, 1951 to September 23, 1992 the DOD & AEC detonated 1,016 nuclear weapon devices at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The majority of these tests were performed below ground, in deep shafts, mines or tunnels. Some of these tests were joint venture exercises, and included military personnel from Canada & the U.K. as shown in the photo below. . .



" My Camp Desert Rock Memories "

To any of my surviving Atomic Test buddies, I am Arthur R. Burford, and I am an Atomic-Veteran. Me, and a bunch of my neighbors left our homes in Pendleton, Oregon to enlist in the U.S. Army. During my training period, I found out that many other soldiers in our Unit were also from Oregon. To date, I have not been able to contact any of them; however, I do know that one of them is now deceased. He died from cancers, that I am now told were caused from the radiation fallout from those tests. . .

It took me a long time to sort out my memories of those Atomic bomb test days, mostly because I was told not to say anything to anyone about those experiences, not my wife, or family, or even my doctor. As I can recall, my first experience was out in the Marshall Islands, setting up for the (1951) Greenhouse bombs. Back then, I was a wheel & track vehicle mechanic, and didn't move around much, cause on that tiny strip of

Coral, in the middle of no-where, there wasn't really any place to go. I was in a Truck & Transport Company that ran the Motor Pool and provided most of the truck drivers operating on the Island of Enewetak . . .

Our unit arrived in October of 1950, and I can remember the stench emanating from the area of the Island where the Army Engineers were just finishing a runway, and apparently they had dug open a mass Japanese grave, left there from WW-II. The smell was awful, and I almost choked with each breath I took. The Army Colonel (who was in charge) sort of lost his composure, and went off his rocker, and (one-star) General, in charge of the operation, relieved him shortly thereafter. The "scuttle-butt" had it that he was shipped out to some other island, and a new assignment. . . .

One day, as I can remember, a B-29 landed at that Enewetak airstrip, taxied down the runway, then turned around to head back up toward the Quonset-hut command area, and hit a light pole with the right wing. The impact ruptured the wing (gas) tank, and the plane burned to the ground. I did not think that a plane that big could burn down to a pile of ashes that quick. . .

After the Greenhouse tests, I was sent to Hawaii to attend a Navy Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination course. I did not know why I had to do this, but it soon became clear that I was going to see more atomic bomb blasts in a few short months. I left Hawaii in June, 1951 and shipped over to Camp

Stoneman, Ca., where I soon learned that my final destination would be Camp Desert Rock, Nevada. I had no idea what that was all about, but in September, 1951 we arrived at the Camp Mercury gate, and took the left fork in the road that led us up to the Camp Desert Rock housing project. I remember it got mighty cold on the first night we were there. . . .



John DeBusk decorated his tent and named it "Hotel-Yucca"

Our CO must have had visions of Death-Valley. When he learned that we were being sent out to the Desert in Nevada, he had us turn in all of our winter clothing, such as "long-johns," and woolen overcoats. Fortunately, he let us keep our woolen Class "A" uniforms. We were issued summer sleeping bags, which consisted of nothing more than a wool blanket with a zipper. The first night we were at Desert Rock, we woke up in the morning to find the water in the Lister-Bags had frozen during the night. . . .

We lived in squad tents without heating for the first month or so, then we were given little pot-bellied (oil-burning) stoves, and all the heat emanating from the darned things went right up the chimney pipe. Having just returned from the mild weather of the South Pacific, we really were not to happy dealing with this cold stuff. Before "Taps," me, and two or three of my buddies, used to go up to the motor pool, light a blow torch, aim the flame into the open end of a muffler, and huddle around the muffler, until we could feel our fingers again. Then, when we were tired enough, we'd return to our squad tent and "sack-out"

Given the boredom, at times, we dolled up our company area by lining the street with rocks, and (potted) plants, which the CO had us scavenge off the desert. The rocks were whitened, by dipping them in a large pail of (cold) white wash. We



also dug up Yucca plants, which we transplanted, in the ground or in pots, along the Main Company Street. I have to admit, those things did improve the appearance of the area considerably. On of the guys, from another Company, called it the Desert-Rock "Yucca Hotel". . . .

The first couple of months at Desert Rock, we had no shower facilities, so once every couple of weeks, we'd get on a bus or truck, and go in to the outskirts of Las Vegas where, apparently, arrangements had been made for us to use the showers of a swimming pool located there. We would also get in to Vegas once every month or two for a little recreation, and "girl-watching." That was real quite a place, back in those days! I don't believe we could have afforded more frequent night club & show girl visitations. . . .

When we did get our shower facilities at Desert Rock, all Units had to share them on a scheduled basis. Water was at a premium, and had to be hauled some distance by tanker truck. Each individual was allowed only 5 minutes in the shower. So, we really got the art of showering down pat. . .

Then, one day a bunch of tanks & artillery pieces showed up, and the Navy Bu-Med guys showed up with a truckload of goats, sheep & pigs. We were told that they would be put close enough to the A-bomb blast to see how they would hold up. I knew right then and there that this was not going to be anything like what we saw at Enewetak. When the Greenhouse bombs went off, we were 20 miles, or so, away from those "fish-cookers," but here, we would be a whole Helluva lot closer to the upcoming nuke fireworks. . . .



The Camp Desert Rock (roving) "Gopher-Patrol" is tucked in behind a Berm before a Yucca Flats test, and the driver has assumed the "shot-squat" position !!!

When an underground A-bomb test was conducted, our unit was assigned to trenches some distance from the blast. Other units, to include Airborne Infantry, were much closer to the detonation. We were not issued any protective goggles, and remained hunkered down in the trench until given the word it was okay to stand up again. For above-ground tests, we were also in trench's, and could feel a blast of hot air, and the heat and shock waves, and the ground felt like it was going to open and swallow all of us. I can remember watching the mushroom cloud rise until it looked like it was directly on top of us. Some of our guys told me they could see the bones in their hands, or the bones in the soldier who was in front of them. Now this is some scary stuff to have to deal with. . . .

I was told, many years after those events, that when an Atomic-bomb explodes, it creates an exceedingly large amount of X-rays, and it is those X-rays that cause the bones to be seen. Now I don't know if this is fully correct, but when I got out of the Army, I as told not to have any X-rays, or any kids, for at least 10 years. . .



It has been a long time since I have given those days much thought, and now it seems like I remember more than I had imagined. The 511th. was a pretty sizable Unit at the time of the Greenhouse, & Buster-jangle Atomic-bomb tests, and most of the personnel were from the East Coast, Virginia, Kentucky, etc. Some of our 4th. Truck. Co. mechanic & driving personnel worked with the 511th. as stevedores for a period of time before we became fully engaged in other missions. The 4th. was kept pretty busy at Greenhouse, and at Camp Desert Rock. It seems to me we started out at ten hour days, seven days a week, and finally tapered down to hours per day, six days a week . . .

Oh well, that's about all I can put together at this time. Those days are so long in the past, I am amazed at what I have put on paper, given that I had to keep it all secret for so many years. Do you think we may finally get our Government to publically say thanks for what we did ?? I'm not referring to a "thank-you" piece of paper, but maybe some kind of medal, that we could leave for our families to remember how we sacrificed our health & well being for a Government who swept us under the rug for more than 50 years !! Well, anyway, best regards to all my Atomic-Veteran buddies - who may still be alive. . .

**THE LEGACY OF U.S. NUCLEAR TESTS
IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

Embassy News – Sept. 14, 2012

BACKGROUND: Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear weapon tests in the Marshall Islands. In 1962, the United States halted atmospheric nuclear testing, like those conducted in the Marshall Islands, and ended all sub-surface nuclear device explosive testing in 1992. While in Prague, in 2009, President Barack Hussein Obama announced that the long-term goal of the United States is a world without nuclear weapons. The President continues to remain committed to a world-wide ban on all nuclear explosive testing and Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. . . .

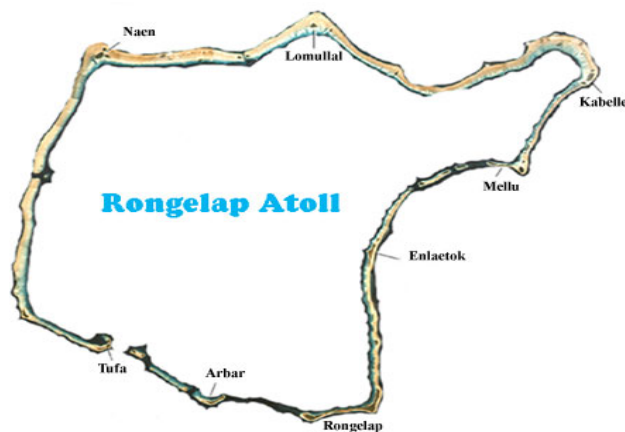
The “live” testing of nuclear weapon designs & upgrades was deemed to be critical during the Cold War and **we honor the contribution the people of the Marshall Islands made to America’s international security goals. . . .**

Editor’s notes: The *Embassy News* takes great pain to “publically honor” the “contributions” the people of the Marshall Islands (may have) made to America’s International security goals. **NAAV** has no bone to pick with their tribute, but, the continued **failure** of the United States Government, in general, and the U.S. Congress, in particular, to publically “honor” **America’s (secret) Atomic-Veteran Wounded Warrior’s**, both living & deceased, many of whom have paid the “ultimate” price in the defense of our national security, is a continued insult to their honorable service to their God, their families and their Country. . .

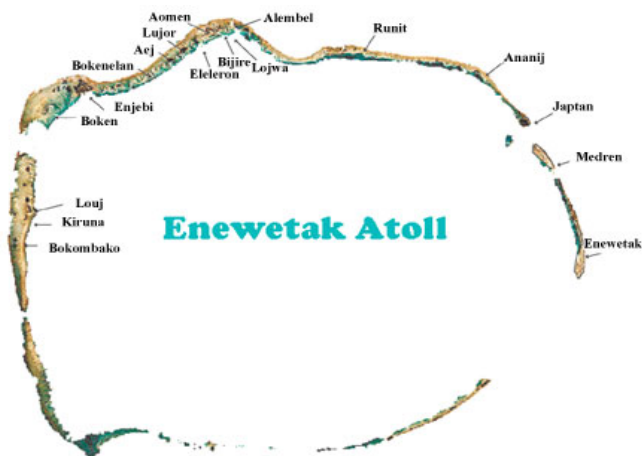
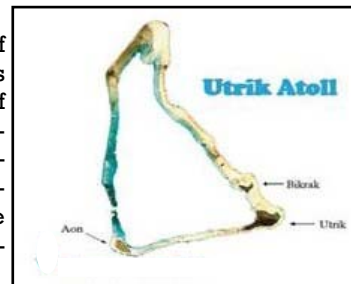
Politicians, supported by their “mulley-grubbing” press & publications, are quite adept at “touchy-feely” (for the moment) comments, aimed directly at harvesting votes from (the ignorant or uninformed) “don’t give a damn” sympathizers. It is our intent to continue to pound & hammer this point, at every opportunity, until America’s Atomic Veteran’s have been properly recognized & honored with full (public) respect and dignity. It is our hope that we can find some “friendly” press (TV & print) that may wish to assist us in this noble quest, as time is growing short

Editor’s notes: The design yield of the “**Bravo**” (two-stage thermo-nuclear “Shrimp” device) was (approx.) **3.5 megatons**, however; the actual destructive yield was **15 megatons**, which was a total shock to the design engineers & scientists. This H-bomb was the first to use solid (dry) Lithium (6) Deuteride encased in “Oralloy” (super enriched Uranium). The **L-6-D** was the “booster” fuel used to activate the fission to fusion trans-phase process, which would (later) be enhanced by the additional use of a (high-pressure) regulated injection of an azeotropic blend of Deuterium-Tritium (hydrogen isotope) gas . . .

After the “**Bravo**” test analysis was complete, the Scientists realized that the solid fuel - dry property nature of the L-6-D provided a boost “bonus,” not previously recognized, thus providing for the massive (un-planned) yield, and the resulting widespread radiation contamination.



Those native Marshallese, who lived on Utrik Atoll returned permanently a few months later, while those on Rongelap returned in 1957 but chose to leave again in 1985. Misconceptions about the history of nuclear weapon testing in the Pacific and the present situation in the Marshall Islands hinder the full understanding of the importance of those tests, and of the lessons that have been learned on how to remediate the environment to a state where people can make a choice about resettlement of their home atolls, while knowing that they are safe. Addressing & correcting those misconceptions is part of the on-going healing process and affirms the commitment of the United States to the continuance of dialogue & cooperation with the Marshallese people, their government, and the rest of the international community. . . .



There were 23 tests conducted on Bikini Atoll, and 44 were conducted on (or near) Enewetak Atoll. The hydrogen bomb test on March 1, 1954, code-named Castle “**Bravo**”, far exceeded the (design) yield expected by Scientists. This factor, combined with the shifting wind patterns, allowed some of the radioactive fallout to settle over the inhabited atolls of Rongelap & Utrik. Within 52 hours, 86 people on Rongelap and 167 people on Utrik were evacuated to Kwajalein (as shown below) for medical observation & care. . . .

COMPENSATION: As referenced in the U.S. government’s (2004) Report on the Republic of the Marshall Islands (**RMI**) Changed Circumstances Petition and other data from the Department of Energy (**DOE**) and Department of the Interior (**DOI**), the United States provided a total of more than **\$604 million** to the (radiation) affected communities. . . .

After adjusting for inflation, this compensation amount equals **\$1.055 billion**, in 2010 dollars, or **\$1.87 million** to each individual inhabitant of the four affected atolls (Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik) at the time of the actual nuclear weapon’s tests, in funds and programs designed to support those who may have been impacted by the nuclear testing programs.



Among other programs, this compensation also included **direct financial settlement** of nuclear claims, **resettlement funds**, **rehabilitation** of affected atolls, and radiation related health care costs. The Department of Energy's **Special Medical Care Program** and the **Environmental Monitoring Program** continue to provide services to those affected atolls at an (annual) level of **\$6.3 million**. Enewetak receives an (inflation adjusted) annual sum of **\$1.8 million** for it's food and agriculture program, while the local governments of Enewetak, Bikini, Utrik, and Rongelap continue to manage trust funds, originally endowed by the United States, for their respective communities. . . .

Notes of interest: Given the compensation, care, relocation funds, dedicated studies and perks the U.S. bestowed (and continues to bestow) on the Marshallese, the conclusion is that they were "paid" (U.S. nuclear test) guinea pigs, while Atomic Veterans were "unpaid" nuclear test guinea pigs. The bottom line is: The United States (DOD & DOS) used taxpayer dollars to "buy their way" out of a radiation exposure liability situation, while they used the oath of secrecy to "silence their way" out of a radiation exposure liability situation. Is the smell of this beginning to not make you ill ? ?

Two distinct medical programs are included in the Compact of Free Association: DOE's Medical Care program and DOI's Section 177 Health Care Program. As of February 2012, there were 135 individuals remaining in DOE's Program for people on Rongelap and Utrik atolls exposed to local fallout from the Bravo test. . . .



THE ENEWETAK RESEARCH CENTER IS STILL ACTIVE

In addition, with funds from the DOI, the RMI provides a basic medical care program titled the *Four-Atoll Health Care Program* (Marshall Islands) for the inhabitants of the four affected atolls. When testing began, the (four atoll's) population total was approximately 600. Currently, there are more than 14,000 people enrolled in the *Four-Atoll Health Care Program*, largely because legislation permits people to self-identify (without any proof) as being from one of the four atolls. . . .

Editor's note: Does this registration method sound strangely familiar ? ? ?

Under the terms of the original Compact, and as part of the total compensation described above, the United States provided **\$150 million** to the RMI to establish a nuclear claims fund. From 1991 to 2003, the *RMI Nuclear Claims Tribunal* awarded over **\$2 billion** for personal injury, property loss, and class action claims. The amount of claims awarded thus far exceeded the settlement amount, and payments from the Tribunal ceased in 2009 after having disbursed all existing funds. Findings of the *Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiment (ACHRE)*



IN 1957 THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTED THESE PLAN-TATION TYPE HOMES FOR THOSE NATIVES WHO WISHED TO RETURN TO RONGELAP. . .

Then, in the early 1990s, in part to address a growing concern regarding the number of reports describing "**unethical conduct by the United States in the use of, or exposure to, ionizing radiation,**" President Bill Clinton elected to establish the *Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE)*, and over a fifteen month period, the Committee reviewed all available documentation on the subject and interviewed hundreds of witnesses, accordingly. Regarding the Marshall Islands, *ACHRE* concluded that there was "no evidence to support the claim that the exposures of the Marshallese, either initially or after resettlement, were motivated by research purposes". . . .

The United States has expressed regret about the "**Bravo**" accident when **253** Marshallese were exposed to high doses of radiation from a nuclear test. While international scientists did study the effects of that accident on the human population unintentionally affected, the United States never intended for Marshallese to be hurt by the tests. Today, the U. S. is committed to a full and open collaboration with the Republic of the Marshall Islands in radiological monitoring, rehabilitation of affected atolls, and nuclear related health care assistance. . .

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES: Dozens of scientific studies have been carried out in the Marshall Islands over the decades to characterize the residual radioactivity so as to better understand the risk to inhabitants. For example, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Health and Safety Laboratory developed a nuclear fallout surveillance program during the Pacific nuclear tests campaigns of the early 1950's. . . .

These surveys included aerial monitoring of the mid and western Pacific and development of fallout monitoring stations in the United States as well as other locations around the globe. The first evidence of (post) Bravo fallout was recorded by AEC Health and Safety Laboratory instrumentation placed on Rongerik Atoll. The results of the surveys conducted immediately after Bravo along with subsequent studies of medical investigations, radiological studies, and dose assessments conducted by many laboratories over the decades have made available a wealth of publically accessible data and information on the health and ecological consequences of the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands. . . .

Monitoring Program. The most recent reviews were conducted by a 15-member panel of scientists convened by the U.S. *National Academy of Sciences* in 1994 and a 12-member panel of international scientists coordinated by the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)* from 1995 to 1996. . . .



AN AIR FORCE CARGO PLANE PREPARES TO LAND ON A MARSHALL ATOLL AIRSTRIP - WITH NO ROOM FOR ERROR !

LOOKING FORWARD: While the Compact of Free Association included a full and final settlement of all nuclear related claims, the United States agreed to a provision that allows the Marshall Islands to present a petition for additional compensation, if there are "changed circumstances," as defined in the agreement. In 2000, the RMI submitted such a petition, and although the Executive Branch concluded that it did not meet the definition of "changed circumstances" under the agreement, it remains pending before the U.S. Congress. . . .

At the same time, the United States continues to support the Marshall Islands through radiation-related health care services and continued monitoring and environmental assessments on the affected atolls. U.S. Scientists from the national (nuclear related) laboratories and from other (similar) U.S. agencies and universities are continuing their (decades-long) engagement in the Marshall Islands monitoring & studies

The health and environmental programs the United States provides to Marshallese affected by the testing are the best in the world. These programs include technical support to provide information to help the RMI make responsible decisions and use the resources available to take the steps necessary for the future. Today, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is seeking Senate ratification of the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*. Universal ratification of and adherence to this Treaty would end all nuclear testing in all environments. Creating a world without nuclear weapons will require a strong commitment from all international partners, including the Marshall Islands, while working towards this collective vision. . . .

BANKRUPT FIRM ABANDONS A MILLION LBS. OF WASTE

OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE – Impact Services, Inc., a local nuclear waste materials processor that provides decontamination services for contaminated component parts and scrap accumulated by commercial nuclear power reactors, filed for (Chapter 7) liquidation on May 24, 2012 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court (Wilmington, Delaware) and "shut its doors" on May 18, leaving State officials with close to one million pounds of scrap radioactive materials on its hands. . . .

According to Meg Lockhart, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (**TDEC**) the State holds a \$1.2 million surety bond to cover liabilities incurred when a firm ditches its obligation to maintain a site in a "safe condition." Impact Services has said that between 60% and



MARSHALL ISLAND INHABITANTS STILL ENGAGE IN THEIR TRADITIONAL NATIVE CELEBRATION EVENTS

In the post-testing era, the AEC and the University of Washington's Laboratory of Radiation Biology, followed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (**LLNL**), played key roles in helping establish a radiological survey program to assess fallout contamination in soils, animals, plants, and marine life, primarily across Bikini, Enewetak, and Rongelap Large-scale screening surveys covering other parts of northern atolls began with the Northern Marshall Islands Radiological Survey (NMIRA) under a contract with Dept. of Energy. The DOE continues to provide ongoing environmental monitoring for the four affected atolls and annual medical screening examinations and cancer treatment for people on Rongelap and Utrik atolls, who may have been exposed to local fallout from the (Castle) Bravo test. A thorough analysis of the radiological conditions at Rongelap Atoll was conducted by the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) and published in 1994. The NRC report also contained several recommendations for post-resettlement radiological monitoring of the Rongelap population. These recommendations have been incorporated into the general resettlement strategy that DOE has proposed to (Rongelap) officials. . . .

Studies on assessing any changes in radiological conditions across the four affected atolls are ongoing to this day. Over the past 25 years, there have been a number of independent peer reviews of the (**LLNL**) *Marshall Islands Radiological*

70% of the (one million pounds of) scrap low-level radioactive waste could be returned to the generators from whence it came. If that were accomplished, the remaining 400,000 pounds would need to be properly addressed, Lockhart said to the *Times Free Press*. Lockhart added that the radiation safety officer is staffing the site while the Company is "trying to determine what its options are, at this time". . .

Bloomberg News – May 28, 2012

VOICES FROM NUCLEAR "HELL"

Hello NAAV. – This is Robert Stroup, and I was at the nuke tests called "**Tumbler-Snapper**," out in the desert of Nevada, north of Las Vegas. I was born on October 15, 1929 on a kitchen table on a ranch in western Oklahoma. After High-School, I entered the Army-Airborne service in September 1948, and went to jump school in 1949. I was extended a year in the 1950 cause the Korean War broke out. . . .

I was a member of Company "H," 504th Battalion of the 82nd. Airborne, from September, 1948 to June, 1952. After injuring my back (in a parachute jump in Texas) my CO said that I would be going up to Las Vegas, and would have plenty of time for my back to heal. At the time I said to myself, "now ain't that a kick-in-the-head, I'm going to be going to Las Vegas, now I wonder what the Hell else is going on here" ?? What he didn't tell me was that I would be driving through Las Vegas, on the way to Camp Desert Rock, where we were housed in a row of tents, and where we were going to be used as "guinea-pigs" for some atomic-bomb tests

During the next few days, we were brainwashed extensively, about how lovely the detonation of an atomic bomb was, and how beautiful the cloud was, and that radiation is not a worry, and, "Oh by the way – all of this is top secret and you can't say nothing to nobody about what you see or do here. And, if we did say anything, we would be arrested and tried as a U.S. spy." Now that does get your attention !! Then, on the morning of April 22, 1952 they brought us fresh starched fatigues & caps and we went to the breakfast tent. After that, we were told to take a medicine from a small paper cup - and after that, they took our pictures



The "Test-Setup" Crew prepares to deploy loud-speakers before a scheduled nuclear weapon shot. . .

instructions, officers & civilians were going into the bunker building. After we all got down into our trench, the loud-speaker's cranked up, and told us to lay flat and cover our eyes with our hands. Then we heard the countdown, and then came the blast. I could see the bones of my hands and fingers, and that scared the Hell out of me and my buddies. The loudspeaker then said we could get up and look at the mushroom cloud. The fireball was huge, and had all the colors of the rainbow, with lightning at it's base, and the heat was almost unbearable. . . .

Then we got hit with strong blast wave, that temporarily stunned me, and I remember it moving me back across the trench and then forward, all in a split second. It was like being dropped from 20 feet up onto your back, and it was a while before I could breathe. Soon the mushroom cloud was directly over our heads, and we wondered what was coming our way next. . . .

Then the officers and civilians came out of the bunker behind us. One of the civilians tied a white handkerchief around his neck. Then we were ordered to "move-out" towards ground-zero. About half way there, we passed sergeant with a jeep & radio directing traffic. . .

We were told to go up to the "mock-up" display area, with a building, cars, trucks and about ten airplanes. The building, and other items were destroyed, or badly broke up. Some of the airplanes were broke in half. On the way back, we passed an area where they had goats, sheep and hogs staked out. . .

Some were in trenches, and some were above ground. Those above ground were dead, and most of those in trenches were badly burned. We could smell the burning flesh and see the smoke of those that were still alive, making awful sounds. I have never forgotten what I saw, heard and smelled – that day.

We then got back into trucks and headed back to Camp Desert Rock, where we were instructed to strip, discard all our clothing in a large bin, take showers and walk before a man with a Geiger-counter. Then they gave us all new clothing, boots, caps, etc. Two days later we were taken to Las Vegas to board a troop train. The trains windows were sprayed silver on the outside so we couldn't see out, and we did not know where the Hell we were going to end up. . . .



BIRD'S & RABBIT'S (IN CAGES) RATS, MONKEY'S & GOAT'S, PIG'S & CATTLE WERE USED FOR BIOLOGICAL RADIATION EFFECTS STUDIES, BOTH AT THE NEVADA TEST SITE AND AT ALL OF THE PACIFIC NUKE TESTING SITES

Then we were loaded on trucks and taken over to Frenchman's Flat, where there were a bunch of trenches. Behind the trenches there was a bunker with (what looked like) dark tinted bullet-proof glass windows. While we were getting our



My eyes felt like I had sand in them and they were sore and I had floater's or spots going across my field of vision, which I can still see at times. Four days later, after that atomic-blast, I began to get sick, throwing up and I also had a bad case of diarrhea with a lot of blood. There were several other soldiers on the train who were also getting sick. . . .

When we complained about our health problems, they told us that the food on the train is what made us sick. During that two week train trip, I slept a lot I thought I was going to die. I had no appetite and was very weak. I ate very little, but I drank a lot of milk. A couple weeks later I was discharged, without a physical, and with no medical officer present. . .

I then went home to Espanola, N.M., and laid around for about six months till I felt like I could start working, without hurting. During that time, I reported to my local VA clinic to see if they could do something for me. They told me that the Army said my records were lost. I told them "with all due respect, I think that is a full crock-of-chicken-droppings." Finally, the VA said my records were burned up in a fire at St. Louis, MO. – OK, more chicken-stuff. After I kept on raising cane, the VA said I suffered from severe PTSD, ear problems, eye problems, bone problems, cartilage deterioration, and on top of that, I had a bad nervous disorder. The short side of all this is, I was a total wreck. . . .

You know, it's kind of weird, but back then when a soldier, or sailor was "stressed out," they called it "burn-out" or a bad case of "fatigue," – and told us to just take two APC's and get some rest. Today, they call it PTSD, and they give you some narcotics and, in some cases compensation too.

Five years after that Nuke test I developed a tumor in my testicle sack, and all my blood vessels were beginning to rupture. And I have had nothing but Holy-Hell in trying to get relief from what the Army has put me through. Each day, I wonder why our government did all that to us, without even telling us what would happen down the road. . . .

Over the years I heard – through the scuttlebutt pipeline - that a lot of my buddies, who were at that test, are also having tough times with their health problems, and like me, they can't get any record of being at that Camp Desert Rock nuke test. At times, the frustration is almost unbearable. . . .

I hope you print this so others can see how we were treated back then, and thanks for listening to my story . . .

Robert Stroup – Atomic-Veteran
Current status – unknown



On March 11 (2011), when the Fukushima-1 reactor complex (in Japan) went into radioactive melt-down apoplexy the Japanese government and the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (**TEPCO**) – like the Russians at Chernobyl, and Jimmy Carter at Three Mile Island – began minimizing the risks of radiation and the known and potential effects of radiological disasters. The principle mouth-piece for this well-rehearsed minstrel show was Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano, who told the world that evening, "Let me repeat that there is no radiation leak, nor will there be any leaks." Edano is now the Trade and Industry Minister over-seeing (federally controlled) cleanup and recovery efforts. . . .

Independent observers, like Dr. Chris Busby – Scientific Secretary of the *European Committee on Radiation Risk*, and founder of the *Low-Level Radiation Campaign* in England, warned four days into the disaster: "Reassurances about radiation exposures issued by the Japanese government cannot be believed." Like-wise, (physicist) Nils Bohmer, with the Oslo-based environmental foundation *Bellona*, insists that throughout the crisis Japan has been withholding information about radiation contamination dangers.

Even the pro-nuclear *New York Times* reported on November 30th about, "The gap between initial assurances given by company and government officials, and the ultimate scale of the nuclear disaster."



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Now 24 months later, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for The Right to Health has issued a draft report charging that Japan "has adopted overly optimistic views of radiation risks, and has conducted only limited health checks among contaminated populations," the **AP** and **CBC** reported. According to (Rapporteur) **Arnand Grover**, an Indian attorney, "Japan hasn't done enough to protect the health of the residents and workers effected by the radiation hazards".

Previous investigations found that monitoring data from the federal system that tracks plumes of radiation during disasters - called *System for Prediction of Environmental Emergency Dose Information (SPEEDI)* - was kept secret for days early on in the disaster. Then, in August (2011) the press disclosed, that the system forecast that *Karimo Elementary School*, in the town of *Namie*, would be directly in the path of the plume of radiation spewing from the smashed (melting) reactors. Yet the warning never reached decision-makers and neither the school nor the town was evacuated. Instead, they became evacuation centers where many families cooked and ate their meals outdoors.

Bellona reports that documents obtained by the Associated Press (**AP**), the New York Times, that interviews with key Japanese officials, (by *Bellona*), a review of other newly released data and parliamentary transcripts show that Japan's system, to forecast radiation threats, was totally functional from the moment it's nuclear crisis began (on March 11th), after an earthquake and tsunami pummeled the Fukushima reactor site.

The *United Nation's Grover* severely criticized the Japanese government's commitment to health care for exposed workers and people in contaminated areas, and complained that it's ongoing health checks are "too narrow in scope because they are only intended to cover Fukushima's two million people." Survey's of health effects should have extended to "all radiation affected zones" *Grover* said. This includes a vast area and much of the north-eastern half of Honshu, Japan's main island. . . .

But so far, only one-fourth of Fukushima's population has been adequately surveyed. *Grover* thinks it's unwise to check only children for thyroid damage. Indeed, *Dr. Helan Caldicott* told *Business Insider* last summer that even when lesions are found on a child's thyroid, they aren't being biopsied. The lesions "should all be biopsied," warned *Caldicott*. Further minimizing the actual numbers of affected persons, thousands of reactor-site workers with short-term contracts "have no access to permanent health checks," *Grover* said, and Fukushima residents complain that they have not been allowed access to their own health-check results. . . .



Last March, *Human Rights Watch* leveled the same charges. "We are really not seeing basic health services being offered in an accessible way, and we are not seeing accurate, consistent, non-contradictory information being disclosed to people on a regular basis" *Jane Cohen* (who is a researcher at the New York based group) told a Reuters reporter. . . .

Editor's comments: Now let's see if we can fully understand what all this meansThe Japanese government used **cover-ups** & other methods to avoid **radiation exposure liabilities** Does this sound familiar ? Well, kind of - you see - from 1946 to 1962, the U.S. Dept. of Defense (**DOD**) ordered military personnel (from all service branches) to engage in atomic warfare exercises, with real "live" nukes - while ordering them to deliberately get exposed to ionizing radiation. . . .

And from 1946 to 1996, the same **DOD** used the "secrecy-oath" and **criminal penalty scare tactics** to avoid any and all liabilities associated with those ionizing radiation exposure events. On the other hand, they paid out millions of our tax dollars to the native Marshallese, and to the crew members and owners of the Japanese fishing vessel "**Luck-Dragon-5**" for exposure to radiation fallout from the (1954) "**Castle**" tests, while **America's (secret) Wounded Warriors** were conveniently swept under the rug. . . .

Are you felling good about all of this ???

Official lullabies, denials and attempted cover-ups are desperate shields against the enormous economic and legal litany of liabilities that would follow any acknowledgment of the depth and breath of the likely effects of (reactor) radiation exposure. . **TEPCO** said (on November 6th) that it may need **11 trillion** yen (**\$137 billion** U.S. dollars) to cover it's damages. Tokyo already set aside **9 trillion** yen in July, as part of a federal bailout and takeover of the utility. . . .



(A becquerel is one sub-atomic disintegration per second). **TEPCO** representatives just said contaminated water was not leaking from any of it's wreckage. Oceanographer *Jota Kanda* (of Tokyo University) told *Nature* that his analysis indicates the site itself is leaking about **300 billion becquerels** into the sea every month. Additionally, there is more relentless news from the global radiation disaster events at Japan's Fukushima-Daiichi reactor complex. . . .

Yet, if the majority of major papers don't ignore it entirely, they tend to downplay the in-stability plaguing the three destroyed reactors and their leaking waste fuel pools, and the widespread & long-lasting contamination that has begun to dramatically corrupt the food chain. On May 24 (2012) a report from **TEPCO**, which owns the complex, declared that an earlier estimate of how much radiation had been released to the atmosphere was dramatically inaccurate. The radiation contamination that spewed within the first few weeks of the disaster "was almost two and a half times the initial estimate of the Japanese safety regulators," the *New York Times* reported – well, sort of reported

Minister *Edano* hinted, last May, that the government may cover some of the costs of decontaminating certain limited areas, but comprehensive decontamination is not even being considered because as the *Ministry of Science* reported, in November (2011), radioactive fallout from the triple melt-down's was found in every one of it's 57 prefectures. . . .

The journal *Science* reported this fall that 40% of the fish caught off the coast of northeast Japan are contaminated with radioactive Cesium at levels well above what the government allows. Author *Ken Buesseler*, of the *Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute*, concluded that there is either a source of Cesium on the seafloor, or **TEPCO** is still dumping radioactive waste, including Cesium, into the Ocean. . . .

Referring to the millions of gallons of cooling water still being poured into the three destroyed reactors and their waste fuel pools, *Buesseler* told *Radio Australia* (on November 20th) "Some of that water is getting back into the Ocean, either actively being pumped out after some decontamination, or through leaks in the building, so [**TEPCO's**] not able to contain all of the 'hot' water that they use to cool down the area." The Japanese government (and **TEPCO**) moved quickly to deny the (*Science*) article

The Ministry in charge of all federal fisheries, claimed that Cesium from Fukushima's leaking reactors and waste fuel pools, about 16,000 trillion becquerels, or what *Science* called "by far the largest discharge of radioactivity into the Oceans ever seen" – is "sinking into the seabed" and is therefore no longer entering the food chain. . . .



The *Times* ran the report online and in it's New York City edition, but not in the nationally distributed edition. The "newspaper-of-record" evidently decided that readers, outside Manhattan, didn't have a need to know the rest of the story. While most commercial media, in the United States, treat the radiation catastrophe as a nonstarter, a steady stream of news and information from Japan and neighboring countries continues to make frequent headlines. . . .

"Twenty years from now, parts of Fukushima Prefecture will still be too heavily contaminated to inhabit," the Japanese Government announced on April 24 (2012). The prefecture is home to the three exploded reactor units and 40 years of waste fuel that was stored in unstable holding pools. The Government had said, earlier in April, that "areas where radiation doses to humans exceeded 50 milli-sieverts per year would remain off-limits to all evacuees". . . .

Radioactive Cesium (137), Uranium & Plutonium was widely dispersed by the reactor explosions, and has spread far beyond the Fukushima prefecture. *Cecil Peneda* reports in her new book, *Devil's Tango*, that since the Cesium, was dis-



persed across Japan, it has seeped down two inches into the earth, and 29 million cubic meters of contaminated soil must be scraped off of some 930 square miles, then placed in containers and thereafter, managed as radioactive waste. Japan has yet to agree on a way to manage this volume of waste, that could entirely fill 23 football stadiums. . . .

On May 2nd (2012) the *Japan Times* reported that 51 food products, from 9 Japanese prefectures, were found to be poisoned with **Cesium-137** contamination in excess of the newly established "allowable" limits. The *Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry* tested the foods and declared that 24% of the vegetables, mushrooms, fish & meat it looked at had grossly exceeded the limits considered to be allowable for consumption. . . .

These harmful levels of **Cs-137** were found in 262 samples. Several of those food products contained both **Cesium-134** and **Cesium-137**. Because of the unique "signature" of both **Cs-137** and **Cs-134** in fish, the findings "are unequivocal proof that Fukushima was the source," according to Oceanographers who spoke with the *Associated Press*. . . .

Caught five months after the colossal releases of Cesium isotopes into the Pacific, the Bluefin Tuna swam in and around poison seas for about a month, before reaching California, 6,000 miles away. "Re-searchers planned to repeat the study with a larger number of samples" next year, the **AP** said, adding, "The upcoming sea travelers have been swimming in radioactive waters for a longer period of time. How this will effect concentrations of radiation contamination in marine life remains to be seen". . . .

Editor's omments: Scientists have discovered that **Cesium-137** has been found to alter genetic reproductive **DNA**, which have been shown to produce genetic defects in the offspring born to those exposed to **Cs-137**. Many military veterans, who participated in the U.S. Atomic weapons tests in the Pacific and in Nevada, were told upon release from active duty, to "not have any x-rays, or sire any children until 10 years after your discharge." And, of course, at that time, when asked why – the answer was – "We can't tell you, cause it's top secret". . . .

But others have seen enough. South Korea has imposed harsh radiation monitoring rules on seafood imported from 8 far flung Japanese prefectures. "It's worrisome in that **Cs-137** is leaking," said Paul Falkowski, a professor at Rutgers University's *Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences*, to the *New York Times* in March, 2012 – before the enormous amounts of contamination were known. And, Falkowski also predicted, if

there is a lot of **Cesium** over an extended period, "then you'll have to worry, a whole lot". . . .

All domestically grown food in Japan is likely to be contaminated with some reactor-borne **Cesium**, but those food items that tested above the allowed levels were found in Fukushima, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Iwate, Miyagi, Chiba, Yamagata, Gunma and Kanagawa prefectures. All but Fukushima itself are well outside the official exclusion zone which extends only 12 miles beyond the Fukushima-Daiichi site. . . .

In April (2012), **Cesium** contamination of 18,700 becquerels per kilo, or 37 times what federal authorities allow in fish, was found in salmon from Titate, a village in Fukushima prefecture. It was the highest level of **Cesium** found in Japan's fish since the initial disaster began 14 months earlier. Contamination of soil, vegetation and water is so widespread in Japan, that evacuating all of the "at-risk" population would possibly collapse the economy, much as the Chernobyl radiation fire did to the former Soviet Union. . . .



Fukushima City is 31 miles from the designated "dead-zone," and is an example of the massive problem faced by the Japanese authorities. The city has 500,000 inhabitants, including 300,000 children under the age of 15. Federal authorities have refused to conduct soil radiation surveys, except for school yards. Those residents, who were interviewed for the new documentary "*Fukushima Never Again*" complained of high radiation levels, and said the Japanese Government's refusal was done to avoid evacuating half-a-million people. . . .

The global radiation catastrophe that exploded at Fukushima has deposited **Cesium-137** over 600,000 square miles of the Pacific, according to author Bob Alvarez, a former senior advisor to the *Department of Energy*. Extremely high concentrations of **Cesium-137** at the Fukushima's Pacific Ocean leaks peaked at more than 50 million times pre-existing Ocean levels, according to the (March, 2012) *National Academy of Sciences* report. . . .

According to the French Institute for Radiological Protection & Nuclear Safety, at least 27 peta-becquerels (27 million billion becquerels) of **Cesium-137** poured into the Pacific Ocean between March 21 and mid-July (2011), in "the biggest single outflow of man-made radioactive materials introduced to the marine environment ever seen, or recorded." The health issue consequences have begun to appear in consumer food products – thousands of miles away, and sometime in the near future, it may effect you and your family, as well. . . .



Operation Tumbler-Snapper (Shot "Charlie)

My name is **Stanley R. Cook**, and I enlisted in the U.S. Army in December of 1949. Back then, I was only 17 years old and had to get special permission from my parents to be a soldier. I went through basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., then on to jump school at Fort Benning, Ga. After jump school, I was shipped off to Fort Bragg, N.C., and assigned to Company "F," 504th. Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd. Airborne Division. . . .

In January 1952 we were sent to Texas for Exercise "Long-Horn." The 82nd. was supposed to be the "Aggressor-Force" in the operation. Then, in March, we made a jump over a town near Lampasas, Tx. I jumped with the "Pathfinders" and was on the ground when the rest of the Division jumped. . . .

There were hundreds of civilians watching us jump, and slowly float down into the trees, bushes and cow pastures, and other unplanned places. We completed our tasks in the operation and were supposed to head back to Ft. Bragg by train. Instead, we were advised that we had done such a superior job in the "Long-Horn" exercise that we were going to be sent to Nevada for an atomic bomb test exercise jump . . .



THE "LONG-HORN" PARACHUTE INVASION OF LAMPASAS, TX.

We then turned in our green (Agressor) fatigues and red overseas caps and flew to the Indian Springs, Nv. auxiliary airport, about 20 miles from Camp Desert Rock. Upon arrival at C.D.R., our Battalion (2nd. Battalion of the 504th. A.I.R.) was put up in the camp squad tents. As I can recall, this was probably the 16th. of April 1952. . . .

We were advised that we were going to see an atomic bomb blast and make a jump, somewhere close to the "hot-zone" immediately after the shot. I remember we had parachute riggers with us that usually were assigned elsewhere. . . .

After we got settled in I was told that I was to be interviewed by psychologists from the Department of the Army. At that time, it seemed to me that the people that were being interviewed were non-commissioned Officers with high AGCT scores, like myself. . . .

One evening, after our arrival, I was sent to a squad tent loaded with electronic equipment. I was then put in a chair and hooked up to a polygraph machine, with wet pads on my hands and an expandable band around my chest. While I was wondering what the Hell this was all about, I was asked a series of word

association questions and other seemingly inconsequential nonsense questions. After an hour, or so, I was allowed to leave, and the next "test-subject" entered the room. . . .

The next day, we were lectured about radiation stuff, and the severe damage that it could do. We were told that we would be closer to an atomic bomb than anyone, except for a few unfortunate Japanese in Hiroshima & Nagasaki . . .

About three days before the parachute drop we were sent out to the drop-zone to pick up some of the larger boulders that were in the area where we would be hitting the turf. For about three days we picked up those rocks and threw them into piles on the ground. I found it strange that those piles of rocks were never picked up and during our jump, they caused some serious injuries. . . .

Over the next few days, while waiting for our test day, we spent our duty hours taking care of our equipment, and during our off time we were allowed to go into Las Vegas, if we could find a way to get there and back. . . .

And so, we banged around Camp-Desert-Rock for a few more days. By now, the camp was filling up with straight-legs (non-jumpers) and a bunch of Marines. And, of course, there were numerous differences-of-opinions, between the various military specialty groups. The (EM) Club-Tent sold beer and was the site of a few inter-service bragging-rights altercations, that were, in some cases settled by a round of old fashioned "fist-a-cuffs," which were governed by the Prince of Queensbury rules, of course !!

And, there were also a lot of civilians arriving at the camp, each day. I can't remember being told not to tell anyone why we were out here. Wee wrote (and called) home and were never advised that the exercise we were going to be



THIS IS LAS VEGAS (IN 1952) SHOWING THE PIONEER CLUB AND ANOTHER MUSHROOM CLOUD RISING OVER CAMP DESERT ROCK (NUKEVILLE) NEVADA

involved in was confidential, or top secret, or anything else. Then, a few days later there was an article in a local (Las Vegas) paper saying that this test shot would be the first to be shown on public television, so there was no need to be secret about the happenings at Camp Desert Rock. During one of our indoctrination sessions, we were told that the test shot we would be participating in would be the largest atomic weapon exploded on United States soil. . . .

On the day of the test, we had breakfast in a consolidated mess hall, with the Marines and civilian scientists & engineers. After breakfast, we were told that our assignment would be to get down in trenches, for the test shot, after which we would be trucked over to our (aircraft) jump platform, then we would get up to our assigned altitude & attack ground-zero accordingly. . . .

So, we climbed into our waiting trucks, drove over to slit trenches, that had been dug in the desert around the center of "ground-zero," and hopped into our assigned positions. Those trenches were about five feet deep, and varied in length. We were told that they were 6,400 meters from ground-zero, but it sure as Hell looked closer than that to us

Behind our trench was what appeared to be a control bunker filled with "Brass" & civilians. They were all wearing dark glasses and did not have helmets. Our uniform of the day included normal battle-field fatigues with survival gear packs and T/O weapons. Directly behind us were loudspeakers mounted on 10 ft. poles. . . .

Then, at about 0930 we were advised that the bomb was on the way, would be dropped from high altitude and would be fired-off at 3,500 feet. And sure enough, we heard the rumble of a B-50 bomber in the far distance, and were then told to get down in the trenches and cover our eyes until we were told to stand up and face the rapidly rising fireball. . . .

Shortly thereafter, I saw a brilliant light, like a flash bulb going off (I guess my eyes weren't completely closed), and I could see the bones in my hands & fingers, and this scared the Hell out of me !! The loud speakers then told us to get up and look at the mushroom cloud. We did, and saw the most impressive sight I have ever seen. The blast was above the ground and completely round. Many hues of red were visible in the maelstrom before us. It was really huge, and frightening as Hell. We could actually see the shock wave coming across the desert at us and we were told to get back down until it passed

The sound was the thing that amazed me the most. It sounded like an M-1 being fired into the trench, just a sharp snap, rather than the boom that I had expected. Then we heard the low growl of the ground rumble, as it traveled our way. The speakers were knocked off their poles, and went flying and we continued watching the fireball rise and form the familiar mushroom cloud. . .

We then stood around the area, out of the trenches, for about five minutes, and were then marched back a short distance to board the trucks for transport to the marshalling area, which was a few miles south of our position. As soon as we arrived, we all strapped into our chutes, checked our gear and boarded our transport planes for the air drop exercise. . . .

I can't remember how many airplanes were involved, but I do know that we jumped as a "reinforced company", rather than a Battalion. And I know, by my parachute jump log, that I was in the number 14 position in the stick. We all used the "T-7" main parachutes with a smaller reserve chute. Most of the NCO's would make the jump with empty pistol holsters, while we (the riflemen) jumped with our M-1's in Griswold container (individual rifle) cases. . . .



Snapper "CHARLIE" (04-22-52) was a 31 Kt. Test of a new (HE) composite fission core, air dropped over Yucca Flats, (Area-7) of the Nevada Test Site (NTS)

Our jump platform was a Douglas C-47 "Skytrain." As we were considered to be "old-hands" at jumping, we did not use a "Jump-Master." Instead, we used a "stick" leader, who exited the plane first, after which we then followed in (pre-assigned) numbered order. My stick leader was SFC Bobby Richardson. What a character good ole Bobby was, always horsing around and playing nasty little tricks on new recruits. Yep, back then, we always had a blast of a time with Bobby. . . .

Some interesting things happened on the ride to the drop zone. As we were climbing for altitude we noticed that one stick of troopers, from another airplane, were jumping early, and we asked, now what the Hell was that all about ??

We later learned that the "stick" leader was (our Chaplain) Lt. Shaffer, and he later told our CO that he thought he saw the "green" (go) light, but it turned out to be an error on his part. As the result of this error, they all landed about 13 miles downwind of the drop zone. Some of the jumpers were injured when they hit the (bolder strewn) desert floor, while others experienced bumps a bruises from jumping into the fierce prop-blast from a airplane trying to gain some serious altitude. . . .

While this was all happening, in the rear of our plane a civilian photographer was preparing to take movies of our exit when his camera (attached to his hand) got caught in the slipstream and he was pulled part way out of the aircraft. While he was hanging on, with the other hand, a PFC, named Billy Figgley, was able to pull him back into the plane, after which he regained his full composure and proper complexion. Shortly after that incident, we got the "green-light" and then bailed out of the open hatch . . .

Accustomed, as we were, to landing on a well-plowed drop zones, the (concrete hard) desert floor was difficult to land safely on. After deflating our chutes, we walked, hobbled and limped over to our assembly area. On the way, we passed through a test display area consisting of a several buildings and quite a bit of military hardware, including tanks, trucks and 10, or so aircraft of different types. Most of the planes were badly damaged, and buildings didn't look so good either. .

But it was the livestock, that were staked out for the blast, that upset me and most of my group. It was easy to tell which direction they had been facing when they were hit with the bomb blast heat & shock waves. They were badly singed and, in most cases, charred to a crisp in some areas of their bodies. We got to that test area before the veterinarians get there & euthanize those badly burned, and whaling animals. . . .

We were then trucked back to Camp Desert Rock, where we all got cleaned up and waited for our final orders to move on. Before leaving, I was again called over to the Military Effects Testing Group. These were the same folks who had given us the initial "brain-drain" tests. Once again I was set up on a lie-detector and asked word association questions. . . .

This time they inserted words like flash, bomb, flame, etc., and, given what I had seen, during & after the test shot, I knew my heart skipped a beat or two on some of those words. Probably the dumbest thing I saw was the fact that the testing was done in the tent next to the EM club. Most of the interviews were done with troops that were half-way in the bag, and they later put up signs forbidding any "imbibing" before the inter-views. After a few more days of "brain-testing," we saddled up and were trucked to Las Vegas where we got on a troop train back to Fort Bragg, N.C. . . .

All I remember is that the food was horrible, and we killed a lot of time with 24 hour pinochle games. While at Fort Bragg, I served out the remainder of my enlistment and was honorably discharged on February 27th, 1953. I tried many times, after the fact, to keep in touch with some of my Airborne buddies, but could not find out how many had suffered from radiation poisoning, that may have resulted from that Buster "George" test. I was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer that has now spread to my liver, and I am about to start chemo treatments. . . .

I don't know how things will work out, but I have to keep on keeping on, one day at a time, no matter how hard it may get. I often wondered why the Military Brass does not want to give us a medal for those nuclear test exposure activities. After all we were used as Guinea-Pigs, to see how we would hold up if the U.S. & the Russians or Chinese we ever started firing nukes at each other. I have a bad feeling that if that Medal is ever approved I will not be here to get mine. . . .

I want to thank **NAAV** for keeping in touch with Atomic-Vets, like myself, who have been swept under the rug and forgotten over all these years. And most of all, thanks for hearing my story of that day in my life when I got to see a real live nuke, in action

Stanley R. Cook – Atomic Veteran
Current status - unknown

INDIA WANTS TO JOIN THE "NUKE SUB CLUB"

VISKHAPATNAM, INDIA: India is forging ahead with it's effort to join the "Club" of five nations that have the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land-based missiles, jet bombers and now submarines. The others are England, China, France, Russia and the United States. India recently launched the 8,140 ton **INS Charkra II**, which is on lease from Russia. It is able to fire torpedoes and nuclear armed Cruise missiles. India is also developing it's own **Arihant-Class** nuclear-powered Submarine, which is expected to begin patrols this year. The **Arihant** will be equipped with ballistic missiles, and may be able to fire a nuclear warhead out to a range of 434 miles. .

On April 19, 2012 India launched a long-range Intercontinental Ballistic Missile that it said could carry a nuclear warhead over 3,100 miles. And, a few days later, Pakistan launched an intermediate-range, (up-graded) ballistic missile that is able to travel up to 1,200 miles. Pakistan says that the launch had nothing to do with India's earlier test. Both countries, like the other Club members, claim their nuclear weapons programs are merely for deterrent purposes. . . .



As I can remember, we walked right through the smoldering remains of "ground zero." It was plain to see that everything from that spot had been either vaporized, torn apart, or knocked flat. We remained in the area for a couple of hours, kicking up radiation dust & dirt. We would learn, years later, that the "rad-badges" we were issued could not measure the amount of radiation we breathed into our bodies, while kicking around the "hot-zone"

We then walked past a Sgt. with a Geiger-Counter, and if your reading was too high, two men with brooms gave you a "sweep-down," and our film-badges were then collected and we never saw them again. We all thought that was enough to keep us safe, after we all entered civilian life, and started raising our families. Sadly, we would all find out, years later, how wrong we were about that assessment. . . .

RECLAIMING CAVE PAINTINGS

BURRO FLATS, California: Hoping to preserve sacred cave paintings, the **Chumash** people of California are seeking to buy a 450 acre slice of a contaminated nuclear research facility – between the Simi and San Fernando valleys – that surrounds the Burro Flats Painted Cave. On the National Registry of Historic Places, since 1976, the cave has been a part of Native American ceremonies for more than 1,000 years. The Cave's walls are lined with ancient paintings. On the first day of winter, a shaft of light illuminates a design resembling a target that is believed to mark the winter solstice. In 1947, the federal government took over 2,849 acres and began secretly testing liquid propellants for rocket engines. In 1957, one of the first commercial nuclear power reactors was built at the site, making electricity for Moorpark, California. It is also the site of the country's first reactor meltdown – an accident kept secret for decades. Over the years, the lab generated toxic and radioactive wastes that neighbors blame for cancers and other illnesses. Under a 2010 state cleanup plan, NASA and the DOE has promised to remove tainted soil and pollutants from the area by 2017. Although decades of security have helped preserve the cave's images, the effects of cleanup could destroy those sacred paintings. . . .

Los Angeles Times – November 13, 2012



In yet another infraction, Battelle paid the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation \$96,000 for destroying swallow nests after removing nesting topsoil. Battelle Laboratory's health director *Sharon Dossett* claimed that the worker's radiation doses were below the Department of Energy's "occupational limits" and the (NRC) maximums

THE HAZARDS OF HANFORD

BATTELLE, INC. FINED FOR ENDANGERING WORKERS

On August 30 (2011) an accident in the Hot Fuel Examination Facility at the D.O.E.'s Hanford Reservation in Washington state exposed one of their workers to external radiation and, on November 8, last year, 18 others were contaminated by air-borne weapons-grade Plutonium dust (two internally) at the Zero Power Physics Reactor (ZPPR) in the site's Materials and Fuels Complex. The affected employees were scrubbed and offered intravenous fluids of calcium or zinc to bond with the radioactive particles. . . .

The ZPPR building was evacuated and sealed to prevent a dispersal of Plutonium. A January (2012) report by the DOE found, *"The underlying problem is that [Battelle Corp.] did not recognize the hazards associated with the possibility of releasing Plutonium. None of the work planning addressed the radiological and engineered controls necessary for mitigating a potential release of airborne Plutonium."* Hanford's infractions were serious enough that, last spring, the ZPPR's operation was shut down for six weeks. The company was cited for failing to properly assess risks posed by handling Plutonium and for not activating an emergency process sooner in the exposure incidents. The company paid a fine of \$250,000 for illegally draining water from a reactor in 2011, and a \$425,000 fine, in 2009 for a security breach. . . .

Several workers sought counseling for anxiety after their exposure events. For that particular accident, and for 78 other violations, Battelle was fined a total of \$412,500

The Hanford Site operated nine nuclear reactors and five Plutonium extraction production complexes for the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Located in eastern Washington, it takes up 586 square miles and is considered one of the most challenging and expensive radiological "cleanup" projects in the world. Billions of gallons of contaminated wastes dumped there have poisoned a deep aquifer and the Columbia River. . . .

Disposing of deadly Glove Boxes: Hanford has disposed of 177 glove boxes so far, and have 55 more to go. An especially vexing 2-story, 10 ton (16 ft. long) glove box, as shown above, was recently removed from their Plutonium Finishing Plant. . . .

The glove boxes were equipped with leaded glass windows and lead-lined gloves, allowing workers to safely manipulate and machine Plutonium (pits) for insertion into nuclear warheads. According to the DOE, the finishing plant is the most complex and hazardous site at Hanford, and complete demolition is expected sometime around mid 2016

Some parts of the glove boxes get dumped in Richland and some will get shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. There is currently great concern about the future integrity, and / or consequences of this practice. . . .

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"Saluting America's (secret) Wounded Warriors "
Both living & deceased

