



# Nuclear Weapons Testing At The Nevada Test Site: The First Decade

*John C. Hopkins, Barbara Germain Killian*

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The reader is referred to [www.nucleartestingnevada.com](http://www.nucleartestingnevada.com) for the complete Table of Contents of this book which discusses such topics as: Trinity and its organization for testing; Evolution of the 1950 decision to test on the Continental US in Nevada; 7 operations which conducted 111 nuclear tests during the first decade (which was during the era of atmospheric testing); Organization for the operations; What, why, and how weapon design data was acquired; Some of the 324 nuclear weapons effects (NWE) projects conducted by the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project which were focused on offensive targets; Some of the 158 NWE projects conducted by the Federal Civil Defense Administration which were focused on defensive targets; Desert Rock exercises which could involve thousands of troops by the US military; Where the troops were located during detonations; Successes and failures that occurred during each operation; Conditions for workers and their culture at the site; Issues faced by the nuclear weapons testing community and how it evolved during the first decade; Cold war issues related to the nuclear capabilities of the US and other countries; Basic concepts of nuclear weapon design, The Plowshare program; The Vela program (test detection); The early work on underground tests and their containment underground.

An example of the advances made in nuclear weapons and their systems during this era is that in 1945, the 15 and 21 kt nuclear weapons were carried from Tinian to Japan in the large B-29s with their large crews. In 1957 on operation PLUMBBOB, data on the response characteristics were obtained of an A4D-1 naval carrier-based single seat aircraft which could deliver nuclear yields that extended into the megaton range.

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