

members of Congress. It's a newspaperman's business to know what is
going on and I know you do know what is going on. Despite this and through

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a sense of loyalty and patriotism you have refrained from publishing of which you were aware concerning the Atomic tests at Eniwetok. I want you to know that we appreciate the way you have cooperated. Since this is my home ground, I am especially glad to be able to hold this press conference here in Hawaii.

The Atomic Energy Commission has just released a brief statement concerning the tests. What is released here at this conference today is all you can do with as you wish. It is not being simultaneously released in Washington anywhere else on the mainland.

I am not issuing a formal press statement at this conference.

I have had copies of the notes made from which I am going to speak and you are welcome to a copy if you desire one.

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SECRETPROPOSED STATEMENT FOR PRESS CONFERENCE

Joint Task Force Seven has successfully completed its mission as assigned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This mission was dual in character. First, it was the mission of the Task Force to construct an atomic proving ground for the Atomic Energy Commission at Eniwetok. Secondly, it was required that we assist the AEC in the conduct of the first series of tests of atomic weapons during the months on April and May.

The Task Force had completed the construction of the proving ground by April, in time to permit the conduct of the tests as scheduled. In general, this involved the construction and rehabilitation of housing and living facilities for the scientific group and for troops. Installation of utilities, water, power and communications were required. Fortunately we were able to use existing structures, left over from the war, most of which were Quonset-type buildings, at the proving ground for housing personnel and for storage and work shops; after repairs, of course. Some equipment was not repairable, for instance refrigerating equipment. Considerable savings resulted from these efforts.

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It was necessary to repair air strips to permit ^{the} landing ^{of heavy planes} ~~including C-54's, B-29's, and B-17's.~~
~~planes such as the C-54, B-29's, were able to come in also.~~ Landing

facilities for small water craft had to be provided, although cargo had to be off-loaded on lighters from the transport ships.

Construction of the actual testing ground involved special construction for the placement of various scientific instruments and test equipment.

MLC ~~The tests themselves involved the static detonation of bombs.~~ These tests had no kinship to the Bikini tests, the purpose of which was to test the effect on naval equipment and other materials as well as animal and marine life. In the words of the directive given to the Commander of Joint Task Force One, the purpose of the Bikini test was to determine "the effect of atomic explosives against naval vessels in order to appraise the strategic implications of atomic bombs including the results on naval design and tactics". [We did not conduct the postponed underwater test Charlie.]

The tests of Operation Sandstone were literally and truly field laboratory tests, designed to determine how the bombs now under develop

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by the United States would work and to determine their efficiency. We did just that. We got our answers. We liked the answers. These answers belong to the United States Government and, naturally, are not for publication. It can be said, however, that the bombs worked. We have proved the weapon-development work done by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory during the past two years.

40 This job which we have just completed was begun on 3 April 1947 when the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission concurred in the recommendation of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory that ^{tests of} certain new designs of weapons be developed ~~to the point where tests could be conducted~~ in 1948. ^{The Commission} ~~Mr. Eisenhower~~ requested and received the President's ^{approval} ~~permission~~ to go ahead with the program in June, 1947.

In September, 1947, preparations had progressed to the point where formation of a Joint Task Force was directed. Joint Task Force Seven actually came into being on 18 October 1947.

As a military organization, Joint Task Force Seven is unique. It 50 was organized along the lines of our best war-time experience, but there was an additional element. As a part of the organization we had a Task

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Group which was essentially civilian in makeup. This was the Scientific Group which conducted the actual tests and which recorded and is still analyzing the results. Captain Russell, who is Deputy Director of the Division of Military Application of the AEC, headed this Task Group as Test Director, and Doctor Darol K. Froman, as Scientific Director for the Proving Ground, headed the Task Unit of scientists within the Task Group. Through Captain Russell, the scientific unit operated technically under the AEC. This Task Group, by common consent, did not work through my staff. The channels between Captain Russell, Dr. Froman and myself were direct. Dr. Alvin C. Graves served as Deputy Director to Dr. Froman and Mr. Robert W. Henderson and Dr. John C. Clark were Assistant Scientific Directors--all from the Los Alamos Laboratory.

The operation of Joint Task Force Seven, thus organized, was the ultimate in integrated effort and embodied our present-day concept of preparedness--this is the concept we are currently teaching at the National War College--the integrated effort of the Armed Forces with civilian scientists, ~~international experts~~ ^{in international affairs} and other specialized civilian elements.

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It is a tribute to the scientists who were members of the Task Force
70 that the Operation was successful. The mixing of civilian and military
elements in the past sometimes has reacted like oil and water. Joint Task
Force Seven was a unified team. Successful accomplishment of its mission
was the result of an integrated effort. ^{Much} credit for this accomplishment
is due Dr. Froman. It has been a real pleasure to have been associated
with him on this project.

I am sorry that Dr. Morris E. Bradbury, Director of the Los Alamos
Laboratory is not here, but I want to say for his benefit that if the men
under Doctor Froman are typical of the Los Alamos organization, then ~~the~~
research and development in the field of nuclear weapons is in good hands.
80 All of us have been equally impressed with the scientific competence
the technical skill, and the sound judgment of the civilian scientists
and technicians assembled for these tests. Our close association has been
valuable in many respects and, I am sure, paves the way for a continuing
and increasing cooperative effort to insure the common defense and security
of the people of the United States.

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Lincoln were Deputy Chiefs of Staff.

Naval units of the Joint Task Force were commanded by Rear Admiral

Francis G. Densbrink. Brigadier General David A. D. Ogden, USA, commanded:

100 Army units of the Task Force and Major General Roger H. Ramsey, USAF, with

Lt. Col. Roger Jennings as his Deputy, was in command of Air Force units
under the overall direction of General Kepner.

Insert attached para. on Col. Cooney here

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Insert for Hull's statement:

I should like to emphasize that during operation SANDSTONE no single individual of Joint Task Force Seven sustained an injury as a direct result of the tests. This of course, includes RADIOLOGICAL casualties. The fact that I am now able to make this statement is due ^{to the} ~~in great part to the efforts of Col. James P. Wipant, Jr., USN, and their aides, who carried out this important assignment. Col. Cooney was my immediate advisor for Radiological Safety matters. I learned to trust his judgment and his common sense principles as they were applied to what could have been very serious problems of contamination.~~

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Col. Wipant
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(Signature)

The major portion of the Joint Task Force sailed from Pearl Harbor 8 March in ships of the Naval Task Group. Flagship of the force was the command ship USS Mount McKinley, veteran of the Pacific war and of the Bikini atomic tests. The four ships of the convoy had aboard the principal participants, both scientific and military. Construction of the proving ground had been commenced in late December of 1947 by General Ogden's units, in accordance with plans developed in coordination with the Scien-

110 tific Group by the Engineers of the Joint Task Force, Colonel David H. B.

Some of our construction was performed by civilian contract. The Morrison Knudsen-Peter Kiewit Companies, the Byrnes Company and the Hawaiian Dredging Company were three civilian agencies engaged at different times on the

One of the most extensive construction projects was that of signal communication. This was accomplished under the direction of Captain Christian I. Engstrom, USN, the Task Force Communications Officer and Colonel Carl A. Hatch, US Army, the Signal Officer at Eniwetok. Both

radio and telephone service was required. Nearly 1,000,000 feet of submarine cable was laid under the immediate command and direction of

had engaged at different periods during the preparation for and conduct
the tests personnel from the Army, Navy, including Marines, ^(Handwritten: Navy, Army, USAF, etc.) ~~AUSAF~~ ^(Handwritten: C) ~~AF~~
Coast Guard, Public Health Service, Coast and Geodetic Survey, civilian
employees from the different Services and civilians working under contract.
Consequently, upon arrival of the main body of the Task Force, the scientific
group was able to commence its preparations immediately.

130 During the period of construction and preparation for the tests a
50,000 measurement tons of material, supplies and equipment were shipped
from the mainland and from Oahu to the test area. Some of this was shipped
by air although the bulk, of course, went by water.

It was decided at the outset that the most economical means of conducting
the operation would be to utilize the existing administrative and logistic
channels of the three Services. Primarily, these Channels were Command

Was one of great profit to the Armed Forces, valuable training in joint operations was gained--training almost impossible to get in peacetime, and generally, all too limited to most members of the military services. Such experience is invaluable in fostering integration within the Services.

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160 So much for the general picture. I'm now going to ask Captain the Test Director, and Dr. Froman, the Scientific Director, to make remarks. I know you will be interested in what they say as, after although these tests were tests of military weapons, the tests were conducted by the Scientific Group headed by Dr. Froman. After they be finished, we will endeavor to answer such questions as you may have in mind insofar as we can do so. You realize, of course, that much of information is of the category of classified data under the Atomic Act and the Espionage Act and none of us is at liberty to answer questions pertaining to the technical aspects of the tests or their results.

General Kepner of the Air Forces and Admiral Parsons of the Navy both of whom were Deputies to the Commander of Joint Task Force Seven (also here today. As stated earlier, General Kepner was also in command of the Air Forces participating. It may be that you will wish to question them.

170 I have had copies of these notes from which I spoke made and I welcome to a copy if you desire one. If you wish to quote any of

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remarks, I suggest you quote them from the notes. They are written out to such an extent that this can be done. I stand behind any quotation that you may wish to make from the notes, and you are at liberty to use all or any part of them in such manner.

I am now going to turn this discussion over to Captain Russell and ¹²⁹~~128~~ Doctor Freeman.

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