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HARDTACK NUCLEAR TEST SERIES CONCLUDED

The HARDTACK series of nuclear weapons tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground and Johnston Island in the Pacific has ended. Danger areas around the Proving Ground and Johnston Island which were established on April 5, 1958 and July 25, 1958 respectively have been disestablished following a post-operation radiological survey. Regulations prohibiting entry into the danger areas are no longer in effect.

The tests were successful and contributed materially to further development of methods of defense of the United States and the Free World against military attack. The test series included development and exploratory tests designed to lead to development of improved weapons; smaller, more efficient, and more rugged strategic, tactical and defensive weapons with greatly reduced radioactive fallout; proof tests of weapons scheduled for production, and weapons effects tests.

The test series included the firing of missiles with nuclear warheads from Johnston Island, located some 540 statute miles southwest of the nearest inhabited island of the Hawaiian chain. All other test detonations were conducted at either the Eniwetok or Bikini Atolls in the Eniwetok Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands.

The tests were conducted in a manner designed to keep to as low as possible the public exposure to radiation arising from the test detonations. Precautions taken were successful in keeping significant fallout within the confines of the Eniwetok - Bikini danger area. There was no fallout in the

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Johnston Island danger area. There were no injuries to personnel of Joint Task Force Seven attributable to radiological or other effects of the tests.

A post-operation radiological survey of the Eniwetok-Bikini danger area was conducted. Results of samples of seawater, taken at a variety of locations and depths, were analyzed and it was determined that the danger area could be disestablished without hazard. Official notices of the disestablishment are being distributed to mariners and airmen. As in previous years, since establishment of the Eniwetok Proving Ground, the land area of Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls, the water area of their lagoons, and the adjacent areas within three miles to seaward of the atolls and the overlying airspace will remain closed to vessels and aircraft which do not have specific clearance.

Secretary of Defense, Neil H. McElroy and AEC Chairman John A. McCone expressed to Major General Alvin R. Luedcke, Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, gratification at the splendid work done by the Task Force, which was composed of personnel of the three armed services and scientists and other civilian personnel in the AEC program. Secretary McElroy and Chairman McCone also expressed appreciation of the work of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and the Livermore Laboratory which developed the devices tested in the series.

Beside General Luedcke, the Joint Task Force senior personnel for the HARDTACK series included:

Dr. William E. Ogle, Deputy for Scientific Matters

Major General William W. Dick, U.S.A., Deputy Commander

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Rear Admiral David M. Tyree, U.S.N., Deputy Commander

Brigadier General Perry B. Griffith, U.S.A.F., Chief of Staff

The Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory is headed by Dr. Norris Bradbury and the Livermore Laboratory by Dr. Edward Teller. Both are operated for the Commission by the University of California. The development work on non-nuclear components was carried on by Sandia Laboratory of which James W. McRae is president. The major construction contractor was the Holmes and Narver Corporation of Los Angeles, California. Several other AEC contractors contributed materially to the operation.