

MRA 7 Hardtack

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1298th AEC Meeting 3. Use of YAGS at Operation HARDTACK (pp. 29-40)
7-31-57

The Commission discussed the possible use of specially equipped obsolete naval vessels (YAGS) at Operation HARDTACK for the purpose of collecting fallout samples in the immediate test area. General Starbird referred to a letter from the Director of Testing, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, to the Director of Military Application, stating that in his opinion the use of YAGS to collect fallout data should have the lowest priority in the fallout program for Operation HARDTACK. (See AEC 952/9). General Starbird also pointed out that the Navy intends to put these ships into mothball condition during August or early September. Therefore it is necessary for AEC to indicate at the present time whether it wishes to use several of these ships during Operation HARDTACK. If a decision to use the ships were made after they were placed in mothball condition, it would cost between one and two million dollars to recondition them for duty and operate them during the test.

Mr. Libby said he believed it is extremely important that AEC conduct an exacting and thorough study of the fallout from Operation HARDTACK and, that in his opinion, this would be impossible without the use of a number of YAGS to record fallout data and to serve as surface calibration points for aircraft participating in the fallout sampling.

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

REVIEWED BY Carol Walker DATE 12/1/84
BY SA Swick DATE 3-22-95

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

OR CHANGED TO
BY AUTHORITY OF ROC
DATE 3/24/77

7-31-57

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In response to a question by Mr. Strauss, General Starbird said the budget for Operation HARDTACK was such that the increased cost of using YAGS in the fallout program would necessitate dispensing with at least one test of a weapons device. Mr. Libby said he would favor this curtailment if it were necessary in order to obtain the YAGS for use in the fallout study. General Starbird said he believed that the addition of only a few YAGS to the fallout program would not increase the accuracy of the study. To carry out a surface sampling program equivalent to that of Operation REDWING in 1956, he said would require a large group of ships, floats and a number of land stations, and would cost at least five million dollars.

Mr. Strauss observed that until the Commission has had an opportunity to review a comprehensive report on the fallout study program planned for Operation HARDTACK, it would be difficult to reach a decision on one part of that program. After further discussion, Mr. Strauss suggested, and the other Commissioners agreed, that he should contact Admiral Mumma of the Navy Bureau of Ships and request a postponement of sixty to ninety days of the mothballing of the YAGS, so that the Commission might have additional time to consider whether they should be used during Operation HARDTACK.

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