

Los Alamos Environmental Restoration Records Processing Facility

LOS ALAMOS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

ER Record I.D.# 0005677

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
Records Processing Facility
ER Record Index Form
(Side 1 of 2)

DATE RECEIVED: 07-16-92 PROCESSOR: /stew

Part I: Complete all fields; indicate if not applicable or appropriate; please write legibly.

DOCUMENT TO: 14-3 File DOCUMENT DATE: 12-10-64

ORIGINATOR NAME: W.C. Courtwright ORGANIZATION: 14-3

SYMBOL: - PAGE COUNT: 6

SUBJECT/TITLE: Burial of Large Navy Guns And Ammunition

RECORD TYPE (Circle relevant type for primary record; type of attachments should be selected on Keywords List):

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Analytical Data | FAX | Map | Plan | Study |
| Chain of Custody | Figure | Memorandum | Procedure | Telephone Record |
| Computer Output | Form | Microform | Purchase Request | Transcription |
| Contract | Interview | Notebook | Receipt Acknowledgment | Video |
| Controlled Distribution | Letter | Personal Notes | Report | Work Plan |
| Drawing | Logbook | Photo | Review | Other: _____ |

RECORD CATEGORY: P RECORD PACKAGE #: _____
(P for Programmatic or R for Reference)

RECORD FILMED (Y/N): Y RECORD LOCATION: _____
(Indicate location of record if not filmed.)

Part II: Complete all fields; indicate if not applicable or appropriate; please write legibly. Use ER Record Index Form Attachment Sheet if needed.

ATTACHMENTS FILMED (Y/N): - LOCATION: _____
(Were attachments to this record filmed?) (Indicate location of attachments.)

TECH AREA(S)	PHS NO(S)	ADS NO(S)	STRUCTURE NO(S)/MDA
<small>LIST RELEVANT TECH AREA(S)</small> 27 6 18	<small>LIST RELEVANT PHS NO(S)</small> -	<small>LIST RELEVANT ADS NO(S)</small> 1111 1093	<small>LIST RELEVANT STRUCTURE NO(S)/MDA</small> -

Part II: Complete all fields; indicate if not applicable or appropriate; please write legibly. Use *ER Record Index Form Attachment Sheet* if needed.

WBS NO(S)

LIST RELEVANT WBS NO(S)

1.5.14
1.5.10

DOCUMENT TO

LIST MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS

—

ORIGINATOR NAMES

LIST MULTIPLE ORIGINATORS

—

CORRECTION (Y/N):

(Is this a correction to a record previously processed?)

CORRECTED #:

(If answer is Yes, please give ER Record # for corrected record.)

CORRECTION DESCRIPTION (Optional): _____

SUPERCEDE: **REPLACE:** **DELETE:** **ADD:** **REVISE:**

ATTACHMENT LIST

Attachment list area (empty)

KEYWORDS: Circle relevant KEYWORDS from the list below for ER Record #: 0005677

MISCELLANEOUS (List other indexing criteria as necessary; please write legibly): Tech Area,

Ammunition, copper

Abandon	.....	Controlled Distribution	Evacuation	HSWA (Hazardous and
Aboveground Tank	Cadmium	Core	Evaluation	Solid Waste
Absorption	Caisson	Corrective Action	Evaporator	Amendments)
Abstract	Calibration	Correspondence	Excavation	Hydrology
Accelerator	Canyon	Criteria	Exclusion	Hygiene
Access	Capacitor	.....	Exhaust	.....
Accident	Caustic	Data	Experiment	Implementation
Accumulation	CEARP (Comprehensive	Deadline	Explosive	Implosion
Acid	Environmental Assessment	Debris	Exposure	Impoundment
Active	and Response Program)	Decision Analysis	Extension	Inactive
Administrative	Cement	Decommission	Extraction	Incinerator
ADS (Activity Data Sheet)	CERCLA	Decontamination	.....	Industrial
Adsorption	(Comprehensive	Deficiency	Facility	Injection Well
AEC (Atomic Energy	Environmental Response,	Deliverables	Farm	Inorganic
Commission)	Compensation, and	Demolition	FAX	Inspection
Aerial	Liability Act)	Description	Fence	Installation
Agenda	Certification	Detection	Field	Interim
Agreement	Cesium	Detonation	Figure	Interim Action
Air	Chain-of-Custody	Development	Filter	Internal
Alpha	Chamber	Discharge	FIMAD (Facility for	Interview
Americium	Change Control	Disposal	Information Management,	Inventory
Analysis	Change Order	Documentation	Analysis, and Display)	Investigation
Analytical	Charge	DOE (Department of	Finding	IRM (Interim Remedial
AOC (Area of Concern)	Chart	Energy)	Fire	Measure)
Approval	Checklist	DOO (Data Quality	Firing Site	Isotope
Aquifer	Chemical	Objectives)	Fiscal	IWP (Installation Work Plan)
ARAR (Applicable,	Chromium	Draft	Five Year Plan	.....
Relevant, or Appropriate	Cleanup	Drainage	Flowchart	Lab Job
Requirements)	Clearance	Drainline	Fluid	Laboratory
Archeology	Clothing	Drawing	Form	Lagoon
Archive	Closure	Drilling	Framework	Land
Area	CM/RA (Corrective	Drop Tower	Free	Landfill
Arsonic	Measure	Drum	Fuel	Laundry
Asbestos	Implementation/Remedial	Dry Well	.....	Leach
Asphalt	Action)	Dump	Gamma	Lead
Assessment	CMS/FS (Corrective	Duplicates	Gas	Leak
Audit	Measure Study/	.....	Generation	Legal
.....	Feasibility Study)	Ecology	Generic	Letter
Bacteria	Comment	Effluent	Geochemistry	Limit
Barium	Committee	EIS (Environmental Impact	Geology	Lines
Baseline	Community Relations	Statement)	Geophysics	Liquid
BCP (Baseline Change	Compliance	Emission	Glass Breaker	List
Proposal)	Compressed Gas	Engineering	Glove Box	Log
Beds	Computer Modeling	Environmental	Graph	Logbook
Bermud Area	Computer Output	EPA (Environmental	Guidance	.....
Beryllium	Concern	Protection Agency)	Gun	Magazine
Beta	Concrete	Equipment	.....	Management
Biology	Concurrence	ERDA (Energy Research	Handling	Manhole
Blank	Configuration	and Development	Hazardous	Map
Boiler	Construction	Administration)	Health	Material
Bonyard	Container	Erosion	HE (High Explosive)	MDA (Material Disposal
Curled	Containment	Error	History	Area)
Burn	Contaminant	ES&H (Environment,	Hole	Media
Burn Site	Contract	Safety, and Health)	Home Owner	Meeting
	Control	Estimate		

Memo	OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)	Radionuclide	Seminar	Testing
Mercury	OU (Operable Unit)	Rationale	Semivolatiles	TLD (Thermoluminescent Dosimeter)
Metal	Outfall	RCRA (Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act)	Septic	TOC (Table of Contents)
Microform	Outline	Reactor	Sewer	Townsite
Minimization	-----	Receipt	Shaft	Toxic
Minutes	PA/RFA (Preliminary Assessment /RCRA Facility Assessment)	Acknowledgment	Shell	Tracking
MIS (Management Information System)	PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyl)	Recommendation	Shot	Training
Mixed Waste	Permit	Reconnaissance	Silver	Transcription
MOA (Memo of Agreement)	Personal Notes	Records	Site	Transfer
Model	Personnel Qualification	Recovery	Sludge	Transformer
Modification	Photo	Recycle	Soil	Transport
Money (Allocation, Appropriation, Budget, Cost, Funding, etc.)	Pilot Study	Reduction	Solid	Treatment
Monitoring	Pipe	Reference	Solvent	Trench
Monthly Report	Pit	Regulation	SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)	Trip Report
Mortar Impact Area	Plant	Release	SOW (Statement of Scope of Work)	Tritium
MOU (Memo of Understanding)	Plutonium	Remediation	Specific	TRU (Transuranic)
MSA (Major System Acquisition)	Pollution	Removal	Spill	TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act)
-----	Polonium	Report	Stack	Tuballoy
NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)	Polaroid	Request	Standard	Tuff
NFA (No Further Action)	Potential	Requirements	Statistics	-----
Nitrate	Presentation	Research	Steamline	Underground
NMED (New Mexico Environmental Division)	Prevention	Resin Bed	Steel	Uranium
NMEID (New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division)	Priority	Resolution	Storage	Urine
NOD (Notice of Deficiency)	Procedure	Resource	Strontium	USGS (United States Geological Survey)
Non-explosive	Program	Response	Structure	UST (Underground Storage Tanks)
Notebook	Programmatic	Restoration	Study	Utility
Notification	Project	Restriction	Subcontractor	-----
NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)	Project Leader	Results	Subsurface	Validation
NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission)	Propellant	Review	Summary	Variance
Nuclear	Property	Revision	Sump	VE (Value Engineering)
-----	Proposal	RFI/RI (RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation)	Support	Ventilation
Observation	Protection	Risk	Surface	Ventilation
Off-gas	Protocol	RPF (Records Processing Facility)	Surveillance	Verification
Oil	PRS (Potential Release Site)	-----	Survey	Video
Open	Public	Safety	Swipe	Volatile
Open Burning	Pump	Salamander	SWMU (Solid Waste Management Unit)	Volume
Operation	Purchase Request	Salvage	System	-----
Order	-----	Sample	Tank	Warehouse
Organic	Quality	Sampling Plan	Task	Waste
Organization	QA (Quality Assurance)	Sanitary	TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure)	Water
	QP (Quality Procedure)	Satellite	TDD (Technical Document Description)	WBS (Work Breakdown Structure)
	Quarterly Report	Schedule	Technical	Weapon
	-----	Scope	Technical Team	Well
	Radioactive	Scrap Detonation Site	Technology	Work
	Radiochemistry	Screening	Telephone Record	Working Group
		Scrubber	Test Area	-----
		Security		Zinc
		Seep		

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : H-3 File (Perimeter Survey)

DATE: December 10, 1964

FROM : W. C. Courtright

SUBJECT: BURIAL OF LARGE NAVY GUNS AND AMMUNITION

SYMBOL : H-3

On December 9, 1964 I talked by phone with John J. Michnovicz, Organization 3465 Sandia Corporation, regarding any information he might have on the above subject. Mr. Michnovicz was a photographer here during the war, but has no recollections that were helpful on the above subject. He referred me to Mr. Hermond Lacey, Organization 6568, Sandia Corporation.

TA-18!

I contacted Mr. Lacey by phone on December 8, 1964. He worked at Pajarito Canyon as a machinist and technician in the fall of 1945 and was with the Laboratory until 1956. Mr. Lacey recalls that in the fall of 1945 the Military fired some bazooka shells into some full scale lens at TA-27, but knows of no other gun use or possible burial. He mentioned a full scale magnetic program shot which occurred in the forked canyon back of Kiva 2 gate. There should be lots of copper around and parts of car batteries since they used about 1000 of them, but he recalls no burial of scrap in Pajarito Canyon. Suggested that Dwight Young, Caney Spring, Texas, and Bill Winter as possible contacts. Mr. Lacey was not associated with Sandia Canyon Site, but suggested that James E. Greenwood, SD-1, LASL, might be helpful.

Mr. Lacey seemed to have a good recall ability of names and activities that occurred 15-20 years ago.

Received by ER-RPF

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I contacted Ira D. "Tiny" Hamilton, Organization 7254, Sandia Corporation, by phone on December 9 to discuss any information he might have. Mr. Hamilton was at Los Alamos in the Military from October 1944 to February 1946 and as a civilian until 1947. He worked at "V"-Site and then TD-Site. Mr. Hamilton recalls the burial of a lot of large classified obsolete weapons parts at a location on Two Mile Mesa about 1/2 mile north or towards town of the TD-Site quonset buildings.

Regarding Pajarito Site he thinks they had some guns there but his memory is quite vague. He does not recall anything on Sandia Canyon Site nor anything about the burial of Navy guns anywhere. Mr. Hamilton said his supervisor was Harvey North, now with Organization 7241, Sandia Corporation. He said A. D. Van Vessum and Walt Meyer, GHX-7, LASL, should be able to recall the burial location on Two Mile Mesa. (Will be checked out later.)

I talked to L. M. "Jerry" Jercinovic, Organization 3210, Safety Engineering Department, Sandia Corporation on December 9, 1964, to see what he could recall regarding TA-20 or TA-27. Mr. Jercinovic stated that he was in charge of the gun tests that were made in TA-27, Pajarito Canyon, for the purpose of testing complete assemblies against bullet impact. He stated that he obtained a 20 mm. gun, a 37 mm. gun, and a 30 and 50 caliber machine-gun from Supply and when they were finished he returned them to Supply. This was in the Summer of 1945. He does not recall any burying of any kind at TA-27 but possibly the guns could have been taken back to two-mile Mesa and TD-Site since that was



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home base. A. D. Van Vessen and Walt Meyers worked with him on the project. William Shaffer was the Group Leader and Harvey North was Administrative Assistant. They had several instances where the assemblies went low order including one 6000-pound torpex assembly far down the canyon. They made some effort to pick up scattered ~~HE~~ but not very thoroughly. Mr. Jercinovic recalls the large burial pit on Two-Mile Mesa which was west of the concrete saucer, east of Two-Mile Mesa buildings and near north edge of Mesa. This location and material put in it was probably not recorded because of questionable authority to do such a job.

Area F ?

Mr. Jercinovic states that he would be glad to come up to LASL by invitation and spot locations in the field as he remembers them.

On December 10, 1964 I talked to Harvey North, Organization 7241 Sandia Corporation, regarding any information he might have on burial sites. Mr. North was Assistant Group Leader of Group Z-2 and was at Los Alamos as a civilian from April 1944 until Spring of 1947.

Mr. North was not familiar with TA-20, Sandia Canyon Site at all, but his people did do some work at TA-27, Gamma Site, Pajarito Canyon. This group conducted some tests with 50 caliber machine-guns and 20 mm. guns on ~~HE~~. They obtained the guns from the Military and returned them to the Military when they finished.

Mr. North stated that his group was primarily responsible for having the pit dug on Two-Mile Mesa in late 1946 for disposing of unsalvageable, classified objects. Lots of large metal parts were placed in this pit, his group put in some tuballoy, less than 5 pounds, and it does contain



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some high explosives. They placed some "large blocks of HE, primacord, etc., in the pit, but put them at one side."

Two names Mr. North mentioned that were associated with the group at that time were Herb Jewett and Captain Bill Shaffer. He believes that Shaffer is now at Oak Ridge.

On December 10, I visited with A. D. Van Vessem, Alt. Group Leader of GDX-7, regarding the burial of guns and ammunition. He remembers the use of a 50-caliber machine gun at TA-27, Pajarito Site for use in the impact studies but does not recall any other size guns used for this work. He recalled that the 50-caliber gun and some ammunition was brought back to TD-Site and stored west of the site. As he recalls, the guns and ammunition were turned back to the Military in 1946 or 1947 and believes it was the Military that was at Sandia.

Mr. Van Vessem recalled one large and one small burial pits at Two-Mile Mesa. These are shown on the current ENG-3 drawings. The small one was used for firing unit gaps which had contained small amounts of radioactive material and small detonators with squibs. He would consider it hazardous to disturb this material. The large pit was used for casings and handling equipment of the Fabrian unit and many other metal parts from other groups of the Laboratory. There was an attempt to cut up this material to declassify it but this proved too arduous a job so that a burial method was decided upon. He does not recall that there is any radioactive contaminated material or any high explosives buried in the large pit. Mr. Van Vessem stated that Herb Jewett and Tiny Hamilton were the members of the group who



operated the equipment to place the material in the large pit. Two additional names that were members of the group were Charlie Barncord and Ray Brin, both now with Sandia Base, Livermore.

Mr. Van Vessem also mentioned potentially hazardous drainage fields from FETN operating buildings. One of these is the old cesspool which served the buildings on Two-Mile Mesa and the drainage fields from Buildings TA-22-1, 25 and 34.

E. G. McAndrew and I talked to Al Embry^{J-DO,} on December 10 regarding operations in Pajarito Canyon. Mr. Embry arrived in 1946 and was associated with Group M-2. He worked at Pajarito Site, TA-18, and he did not work at TA-27 and was never at TA-20. He does not recall the burial of any material in Pajarito Canyon.

E. G. McAndrew and I talked to Jimmy Greenwood, SD-1. He arrived in Los Alamos in April 1945 and was associated with Group M-3 in the Spring of 1946. He does not remember of any guns being in TA-20, Sandia Canyon.

Mr. Greenwood told us about burying material in an old cistern or well at the far end of Barranca Mesa. This location was between two old houses and some stables and where a fence crossed the mesa. You could see from this location the present Sportsmen's Range. Mr. Greenwood said that these objects were about 2 x 2-1/2 feet in size, partially made of tungsten and weighed in excess of 700 pounds. Over 100 of these objects were made in the old C-Shop. These objects had been returned from TA-33 to Gamma Shops for disassembly and inspection. When a large number of these accumulated, Captain James Dare made arrangements to have them buried at Barranca Mesa. Mr. Greenwood said that Alfredo "Freddy" Lujan, ~~also~~ a truck driver and a heavy equipment operator for



the group at ^{that} this time, probably hauled the objects out there.

Mr. Greenwood stated that he recalled a large and quite active rifle range somewhere north and west of the present tennis courts on North Road.

Mr. Greenwood participated in the experiments at Trinity which resulted in the Sleeping Beauty. Three pits were provided at Trinity for these experiments. The first was started in the Summer of 1946 and fired in September 1946. This resulted in a dud and the experiment was never recovered. The second experiment was successfully conducted in July or August 1947 and the third was never conducted.

