

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
memorandum

Explosives Technology and Applications
M-7 Detonation Systems

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SUBJECT: REFERENCE INFORMATION

Statements have been made in my historical input documents that were not accompanied with specific archival references. Many of these statements are the result of information related to me over the past 16 years in conversations with fellow workers, and more recently in discussion with W. H. Meyers and A. D. Van Vessem. I believe the following to be true and accurate:

- A decision was made near the end of the war to consolidate detonator operations at Two Mile Mesa. Archival information seems to support this. The result of the decision was the construction of the buildings at Two mile in 1944 and 1945.
- Detonator fabrication requirements posed a burden on the small operation at Two Mile Mesa, so a new facility was designed at the then unused TD-Site. By 1948, the existing buildings TD-1 and TD-4 were remodeled into office and fabrication facilities. From 1948 through 1952 new buildings and magazines were added resulting in the detonator facility that exists today.
- By the end of the 1950s, a decision was made to move test firing operations to a new site farther away from South Mesa because operations were increasing there. DF-Site construction began in 1950 and was completed by 1952. Major test firing operations moved at that time, but I suspect that some firing operations continued at Two Mile for a few years after.
- In the late 1970s a decision was made to replace the detonator fabrication facility at TD-1, the Group Office and inert fabrication facility at TD-4, the printed circuit operation at TD-52, and the plastic shop operation at TD-5. A new complex called the Detonation Systems Laboratory was designed for the facilities. The complex was occupied in late 1984 into 1985, and the old buildings were given to new operations or were abandoned in place. TD-1 was prepared for demolition by burning, but execution was halted by the Laboratory. The building remains today while M-7 tries to carry out the demolition. TD-4 was demolished to the foundation and the debris was removed.



TD-5 became a warehouse, and for a short time an electronics laboratory. The etching operation at TD-52 became a small carpentry shop and storage area.

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Cy: M-7 Files (OU1111)