

EMBARGOED

NEW MEDIA CONTACT:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BY
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS**

As part of Secretary O'Leary's Openness Initiative, the Office of Declassification sent a team of experts from Headquarters, Washington, D.C., to conduct a declassification survey of documents at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Regional Center at Laguna Niguel, California, on July 7-8, 1994. The National Association of Atomic Veterans requested access to approximately 600 linear feet of documents (1.7 million pages) concerning nuclear testing from the 1950's and 1960's. The team concluded that the vast majority of the documents collected were not classified and are being made available to the public at the archives.

BACKGROUND

- There is a great interest by many people in reviewing Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Research and Development Administration, and Atomic Energy Commission documents at the NARA. The National Association of Atomic Veterans requested access to these documents since they believe the documents contain information pertaining to human radiation exposures concerning nuclear tests.
- The team of experts, consisting of three persons from DOE's Office of Declassification, Washington, D.C., and the Classification Officer from the Department's Oakland Operations Office, surveyed the documents for declassification during a 2-day visit, July 7-8, 1994, to the National Archives Regional Center.

As a result of this declassification survey, approximately 600 linear feet of historical documents are being released to the public and researchers interested in matters concerning past nuclear testing activities in the Pacific, at the Nevada Test Site, near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Access to copies of these documents can be arranged by contacting Ms. Diane S. Nixon, Director, Pacific Southwest Region, National Archives and Records Administration, 24000 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel, California 92656.

REPOSITORY 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
 COLLECTION NARA PACIFIC S.W. REGION, LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA.
 BOX No. N/A
 FOLDER N/A

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. Who is the National Association of Atomic Veterans?
- A. The National Association of Atomic Veterans consists of approximately 5,000 members, including many highly decorated service personnel, who are concerned over health effects from military service-related nuclear weapon effects. It was founded in 1979 to alert veterans, Government, and the Nation to the fact that nearly a quarter of a million service personnel were exposed to radiation from nuclear tests which caused health effects. The members had military service related with nuclear weapon tests in the Pacific as well as at the Nevada Test Site and in other countries. Some of the members were Prisoners of War in Japan near the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear weapon denotation sites. Other service personnel were involved with occupation, medical, and cleanup activities at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear sites.
- Q. Whom should I contact to get a listing of the documents and order copies?
- A. Contact Ms. Diane S. Nixon, Director, Pacific Southwest Region, National Archives and Records Administration, 24000 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel, California 92656. Similar documents are available also, at the Coordination and Information Center, P.O. Box 98521, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8521.