

NTS DOSIMETRY FILE CONTENTS

(William J. Brady's notes for June 1967 meeting, Senior Health Physicist with Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Company, Inc. (REECO))

1. Who performed the Desert Rock dosimetry:

NTS (formerly the Nevada Proving Grounds (NPG) until 1955), security-badged Desert Rock personnel were film-badged by the organization providing dosimetry for NTS on an as-needed basis (i.e., only personnel entering radex areas were film-badged, and not all of these personnel after shot days):

- a. LASL provided dosimetry during Ranger and Buster-Jangle until December 12, 1951.
- b. The Army Chemical Corps First Rad-Safe Service Unit (1st RSSU) provided NTS dosimetry from shortly before the 1952 Tumbler-Snapper test operation until the fall of 1955.
- c. REECO provided NTS dosimetry from the fall of 1955 until the present. Beginning in 1967, all NTS security-badged personnel were required to wear film badges.

Most Desert Rock troops participating in nuclear tests at NTS from 1951 through 1967 were not security- or film-badged by an NTS dosimetry group. The Desert Rock Visitors Bureau issued film badges to troops that were convoyed onto NTS without security badges, and the Lexington Army Signal Depot processed the film packets. As I recall, the 1st RSSU provided dosimetry for some Desert Rock exercises at NTS which were not conducted during nuclear test operations (1953?)

2. REECO's Assimilation of Military Records:

We have dose reports for each test operation on the continent and in the Pacific which include both military and civilian participants. We have interim dose records from R&N dosimetry in the Pacific between test operations. Both military and civilian records also are in the REECO annual reports from 1957 to the present. We obtained Desert Rock records from the Lexington Army Signal Depot for 1951 and 1952 (handcopy of rosters), and 1957 (microfilms of rosters). We also obtained rosters from USERDE for 1944 and 1955 Pacific operations.

3. What is believed to be currently in the file and what is not (military personnel?):

Not all NTS personnel, including military, wore film badges from 1951 through 1956. We have all of the R&N records for this period and from 1957 to the present in our master file. All known 1945 Trinity records also are in the file. Additional records now in the file and comments regarding them are as follows:

- a. Lexington Army Signal Depot rosters for 1951 and 1952 Desert Rock troops were keypunched and included in the file during the Air Force ADP project in 1967-68.

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- b. Microfilmed rosters from Lexington for Desert Rock troops in the 1957 Plumbbob operation recently were keypunched and are in the file. I believe beta doses were not included in many or all cases because "mrep" and net optical density data did not allow consistent identification of doses as either beta or beta plus gamma doses.
 - c. Some nonoperational Desert Rock exercise reports prepared by the 1st RSSM were keypunched during the Air Force project.
 - d. All AEC Pacific test operation dose records are in the file. We think we have all the H&N Pacific interim records keypunched and in the file.
 - e. USNRDL dose rosters for personnel on ships during the 1954 Castle and 1955 Wigwam operations were keypunched, compared with existing Castle data, and the excess tapes put in the file.
 - f. NRDS bioassay, whole-body counting, and TLD records are in the file.
4. Records which may exist but are not in our files are listed below in addition to comments on personnel exposures which were not monitored:
- a. Desert Rock troops participated in the 1953 and 1955 nuclear test operations at NTS. Lexington has no records for these years. Also, a tank battalion from California participated in the 1955 Operation Cue Shot (Doomtown, WVA, Area 1), but we do not know if dosimetry was provided by other. The tank personnel had no security badges.
 - b. We have a number of H&N rosters from interim Pacific periods to compare with our files and find possible additional records. The same applies to several files of 3x5-inch cards used to generate the rosters.
 - c. I personally know that personnel avoided wearing badges before 1957 at NTS. Film badges were not issued routinely except on shot days, and, even then, many personnel entered radiation areas without them. Badges were issued on postshot days only if personnel stopped at CP-2 and requested issuance. Film badges were seldom issued or processed between test operations. Thus, monitoring of personnel doses at NTS was incomplete before 1957.

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