

# LA-UR-23-23833

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**Title:** Poster commemorates the Laboratory's 80th anniversary

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**Intended for:** Web

**Issued:** 2023-04-13



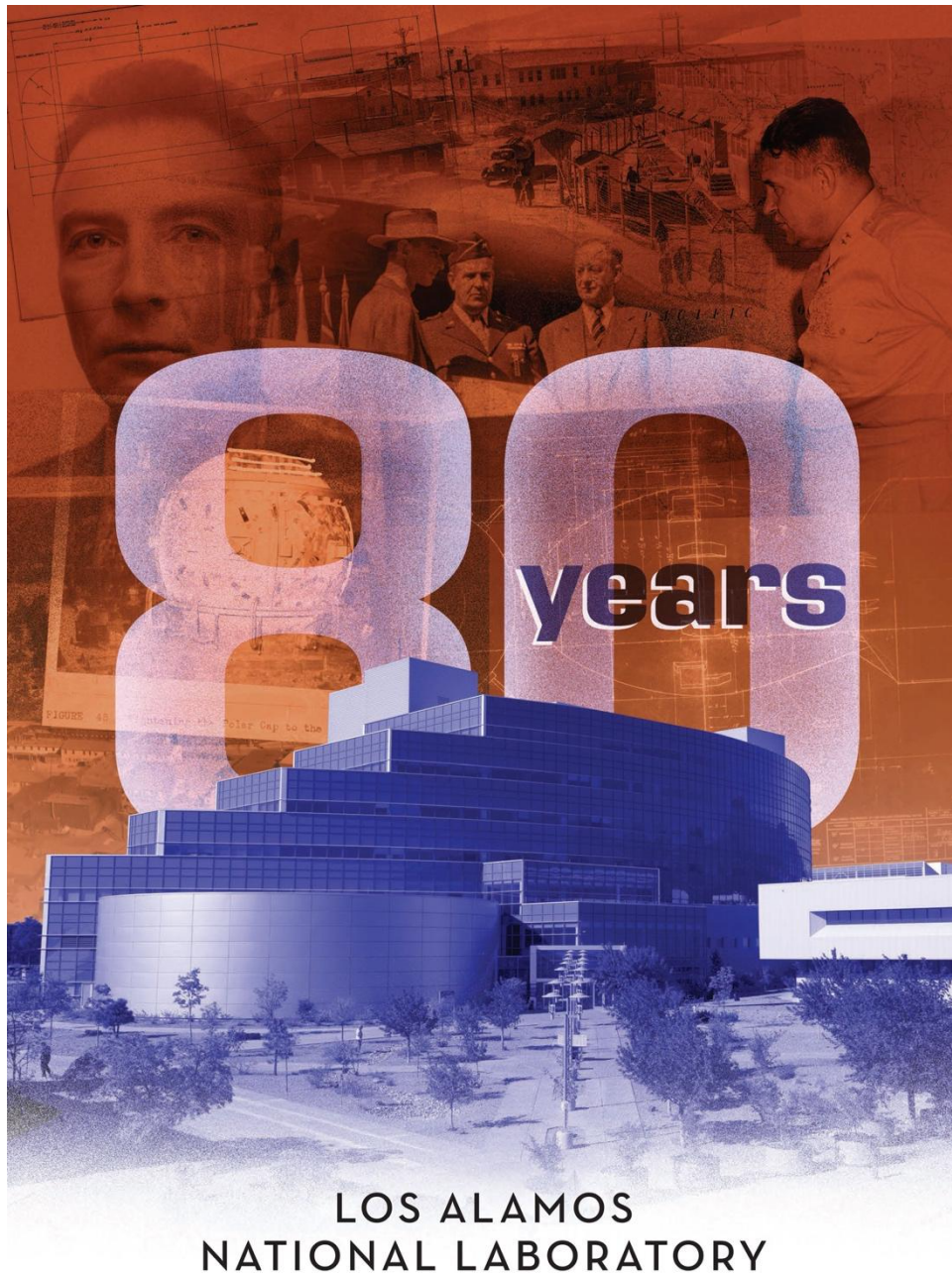
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# Poster commemorates the Laboratory's 80th anniversary

By [National Security Research Center](#) staff

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Laboratory, award-winning artist and graphic designer **Paul Ziomek** (CEA-MP) created [an original commemorative poster](#) for Lab staff.

The two-sided poster includes a montage of iconic images from the Lab's collections in the National Security Research Center. The front showcases historic photographs of the secret laboratory and personnel from 1943 and then today's National Security Sciences Building headquarters building. The back side includes explanations of the Lab's earliest scientific achievements and Manhattan Project leader General **Leslie Groves** and Lab Director **J. Robert Oppenheimer**.



The scientific achievements from the Lab's earliest days were not only remarkable, they also form our legacy. We began as a secret laboratory, under the leadership of Manhattan Project leader General Leslie Groves and first Lab Director and physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer. Our charge: to develop the first-ever atomic weapons

to help end World War II. Known as one of the greatest scientific achievements of all time, the Lab did just that. In the eight decades that have followed, our national security mission has continued. Our innovative science began in 1943 and will endure into the future.

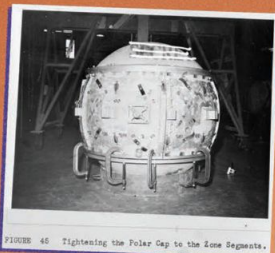


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Caption: Front of 80th anniversary poster



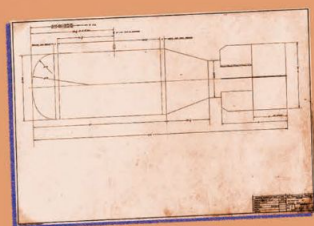
## Historical images featured on this poster:



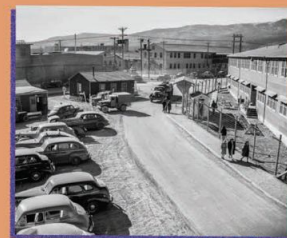
**The Gadget:** The world's first-ever atomic device was detonated in the New Mexico desert during the Trinity test. It verified that an implosion-type plutonium bomb (Fat Man) would be successful when released above Nagasaki just weeks later. The power from The Gadget's detonation was equivalent to around 21,000 tons of TNT; its mushroom cloud grew to about 3,280 feet wide with a column of smoke at a height in excess of 40,000 feet.



**General Leslie R. Groves:** Given his reputation as a strong leader, Groves was selected in 1942 to oversee the Manhattan Project. He helped recruit the greatest scientific minds to work on developing an atomic weapon — and to beat Germany in the perceived race to do so. Groves oversaw the building of laboratory facilities, thousands of staff, and procurement of needed materials. Groves also gave recommendations to his superiors as to which cities should be targeted in Japan.



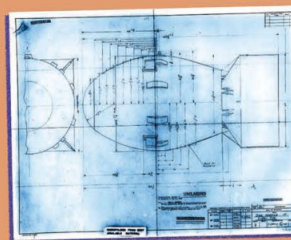
**Little Boy:** The first of two atomic bombs to be used in combat, the uranium gun-type weapon, was released above Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Little Boy was developed after scientists realized "Thin Man" (a plutonium gun-type weapon) would not be successful. Thin Man is thought to have been named in a nod to President Franklin Roosevelt, and Little Boy was likely coined as such because it was smaller in size, though the weapon was 9,700 pounds, 10 feet long, and just over 2 feet in diameter.



**The Manhattan Project:** The U.S. government's top-secret effort to create the world's first atomic bombs officially began on August 13, 1942, and was named for its first office in Manhattan, New York. The headquarters were moved to Washington, D.C., and project sites were later established around the country, including Los Alamos, New Mexico; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Hanford, Washington.



**J. Robert Oppenheimer:** The brilliant physicist was a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology, or Caltech, when Groves selected him as the Los Alamos lab director. Oppenheimer's lack of managerial experience and past communist associations did not deter Groves, who recognized Oppenheimer's scientific genius. The two men had a mutual respect for one another and a strong partnership. As the Lab's director, Oppenheimer earned a steadfast following from his subordinates who remained loyal to him when Oppenheimer's patriotism later came into question.



**Fat Man:** The second of two atomic bombs to be used in combat, the plutonium implosion-type weapon was released above Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The bulbous-looking Fat Man is said to have been named after British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The bomb was a weaponized version of The Gadget that was detonated during the Trinity test in the New Mexico desert. Fat Man was 10,800 pounds, nearly 11 feet long, and 5 feet in diameter.

Caption: Back of 80th anniversary poster

## How to get a copy

Celebrate 80 years of our continuing national security mission and innovative scientific achievements. Hang these up anywhere you want! These posters have been approved to be displayed without restrictions.

1. Print it yourself. (Just click and print!)
2. Contact the Lab's [Print Shop](#) and submit a print request.
3. Attend "Why we're still in Business" (details below) and grab a poster at the event.

## We're celebrating all month long!

We're not just celebrating for one day, but the entire month of April. Here are ways you can take part:

- Watch an [overview of the Lab's history](#) by Senior Historian **Alan Carr**.
- NSRC archivist/historian **Madeline Whitacre** presents "Early Days: The Foundation of the Laboratory at Los Alamos" at **5:30 p.m., Monday, April 17** at a public event hosted by the Bradbury Science Museum in downtown Los Alamos.
- Senior Lab Historian **Alan Carr** and Historian **Nic Lewis** present "Why We're Still in Business" at **10 a.m., Thursday, April 20** in the National Security Sciences Building (NSSB) auditorium. The 90-minute event is unclassified and open to all badge holders.

**Questions, comments or feedback? Contact the News team**  
([lanltoday@lanl.gov](mailto:lanltoday@lanl.gov)).

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Creation Date: 4/5/23 9:14:00 AM  
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Last Saved By: Mitchell, Renae L  
Total Editing Time: 2 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 4/5/23 9:14:00 AM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 4  
Number of Words: 306  
Number of Characters: 2,269 (approx.)