



Guide to the U.S. Department of Energy Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1s33d>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	United States, Department of Energy
Contributor:	Scammel, Derek S., 1936-
Title:	U.S. Department of Energy Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site
ID:	PH-00282
Date [inclusive]:	1945 to 1982
Physical Description:	0.20 Cubic Feet (2 hanging folders, 1 flat files)
Physical Description:	2.79 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The United States Department of Energy Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site contains photographs prints and negatives of nuclear testing, detonations, buildings, and wildlife on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) from 1945 to 1982. The photographs primarily depict nuclear explosions at the NTS and other test sites. The photographs also include preparations for nuclear tests, facilities at the NTS, and wildlife that live on the NTS.

Preferred Citation

U.S. Department of Energy Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site, 1945-1982. PH-00282. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) is in Nye County, Nevada, sixty-five miles north of Las Vegas, Nevada. Between 1951 and 1992, 928 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests were held at the NTS. When the test site was first established, it was managed by the Atomic Energy Commission, but the United States Department of Energy now operates the site.

President Harry S. Truman authorized use of the NTS for nuclear testing in 1951 because the NTS had favorable weather and was more accessible and secure than previous testing sites, including Bikini Atoll and Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Although the NTS was close to Las Vegas and other communities in Nevada, and atmospheric tests could be seen from Las Vegas, many including the military largely dismissed the possible health hazards that nuclear radiation posed to Nevada residents. Tests conducted by the United States Atomic Energy Commission in the early 1960s, medical reports in the 1970s, and subsequent lawsuits showed that radiation did in fact affect many residents in Nevada and neighboring states.

In 1963, the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom agreed to the Partial Test Ban Treaty, which prevented further atmospheric tests; consequently, the last atmospheric test at the NTS was held in 1962. The last underground test happened three decades later in 1992. In October 1992, a moratorium temporarily ended all testing. In 1993, 108 countries agreed to the Test Ban Treaty, and though the U.S. did not agree, it has honored the articles by ceasing nuclear tests.

Source:

Moore, Alan. "Nevada Test Site Overview." *Online Nevada Encyclopedia*. March 18, 2010. <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/nevada-test-site-overview>

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Scope and Contents Note

The United States Department of Energy Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site contains photographs prints and negatives of nuclear testing, detonations, buildings, and wildlife on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) from 1945 to 1982. The photographs primarily depict nuclear explosions at the NTS and other test sites. The photographs also include preparations for nuclear tests, facilities at the NTS, and wildlife that live on the NTS.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1994 by Derek S. Scammel, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of Energy; accession number 1994-18.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards. In 2019, Jimmy Chang added materials to the collection and enhanced the collection description.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Bill Beam Papers, 1955-2004. MS-00531. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Alice P. Broudy Papers on Broudy v. United States, 1948-2006. MS-00097. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Nevada Desert Experience Records, 1957-2007. MS-00524. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

George Knox Roth Papers, 1959-1971. MS-00238. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Baneberry Collection, 1969-1989. MS-00019. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company Photograph Collection, 1963-1981. PH-00200. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Edward G. Halligan Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site, approximately 1960-1969. PH-00101. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Edward G. Halligan Papers, 1962-1966. MS-00168. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Gay Kauffman Collection, 1962-1967. MS-00535. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

John Campbell Collection, 1970-2005. MS-00532. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Nevada Test Site Oral History Project](#). Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Cliff Olsen Professional Papers, 1949-2006. MS-00529. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Nuclear weapons -- Testing
- Mushroom clouds

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Diagrammatic map of Nevada showing the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and Nellis Air Force Range: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0001) (view online)	folder 01
Topographic road map of NTS: photographic print, 1982 (0282_0002) (view online)	folder 01
Mercury, the main base camp at the NTS: photographic print and photographic negative, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0003) (view online)	folder 01

	box SH-031
Radioactive waste management site at Frenchman Flat (area 5) at the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0004) (view online)	folder 01
Security guards check access badges at Gate 100, NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0005) (view online)	folder 01
Industrial Design and Engineering Company (IDECO) 2500 rig used for drilling holes: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0006) (view online)	folder 01
Inside the Control Point at the NTS during preparations for a nuclear test: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0007) (view online)	folder 01
Signal cables laid out at a test location on Yucca Flats, the principal underground nuclear weapons testing area at the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0008) (view online)	folder 01
Final test preparations at the NTS: photographic print and photographic negative, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0009) (view online)	folder 01
	box SH-031
Line-of-sight pipes fabricated inside tunnels at the Rainier Mesa, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0010) (view online)	folder 01
Hole drilling equipment at the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0011) (view online)	folder 01
Nuclear explosive and diagnostic canister for a test named "Handley" being lowered down at the Pahute Mesa in the northwestern corner of the NTS: photographic print, 1970 March (0282_0012) (view online)	folder 01
IDECO 2500 rig used for drilling holes: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0013) (view online)	folder 01
Sedan Crater at the Nevada Test Site: photographic print, approximately 1962 (0282_0014) (view online)	folder 01
House disintegration during an explosion at the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0015) (view online)	folder 01
North end of Yucca Flat, including craters: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0016) (view online)	folder 01
Sedan Crater: photographic print, approximately 1962 (0282_0017) (view online)	folder 01
Operation Teapot, the "Met" shot, a tower burst: photographic print and photographic negative, 1955 April 15 (0282_0018) (view online)	folder 01
	box SH-031
George Test of the Greenhouse series, a weapons-related test conducted from a tower on Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands: photographic print, 1951 May 08 (0282_0019) (view online)	folder 01

Mushroom cloud from the "De Baca" test rises from the desert floor at the NTS: photographic print and photographic negative, 1958 October (0282_0020) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-031
The first nuclear test ever conducted, the "Trinity" test in New Mexico: photographic print, 1945 July 16 (0282_0021) (view online)	folder 02
"Sedan" test at the NTS: photographic print and photographic negative, 1962 July 06 (0282_0022) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-031
"Hood" test at the NTS: photographic print, 1957 July 05 (0282_0023) (view online)	folder 02
George Test of the Greenhouse series: photographic print, 1951 May 08 (0282_0024) (view online)	folder 02
Air-to-missile test called "John," part of the Plumbbob Series: photographic print, 1957 July 19 (0282_0025) (view online)	folder 02
"Diablo" test at the NTS: photographic print, 1957 July 15 (0282_0026) (view online)	folder 02
"Romeo" shot, part of Operation Castle, Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands: photographic print, 1954 March 26 (0282_0027) (view online)	folder 02
"Umbrella" shot, part of Operation Hardtack, Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands: photographic print, 1958 June 08 (0282_0028) (view online)	folder 02
"Easy" test, part of Operation Buster, NTS: photographic print, 1951 November 05 (0282_0029) (view online)	folder 02
"Ivy Mike" test, Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands: photographic print, 1952 October 31 (0282_0030) (view online)	folder 02
"Stokes" test, NTS: photographic print, 1957 August 07 (0282_0031) (view online)	folder 02
"Owens" shot, Operation Plumbbob: photographic print, 1957 May 25 (0282_0032) (view online)	folder 02
"Climax" shot, Operation Upshot/Knothole, NTS: photographic print, 1953 June 04 (0282_0033) (view online)	folder 02
"Priscilla" test, NTS: photographic print and photographic negative, 1957 June 24 (0282_0034) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-031
Small herd of wild horses roams the higher elevations of the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0035) (view online)	folder 02
Small herd of wild horses roams the higher elevations of the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0036) (view online)	folder 02

Kit foxes peer from a culvert at a construction site on the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0037) (view online)	folder 02
Remains of a building on the NTS: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0038) (view online)	folder 02
Winter on the NTS on the mesas in the northwest region: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0039) (view online)	folder 02
Operation Teapot, the "Met" shot, a tower burst: photographic print, 1955 (0282_0040) Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	flat file 03
Operation Teapot, the "Met" shot, a tower burst: photographic print, 1955 (0282_0041)	flat file 03
Unidentified nuclear explosion test: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0042)	flat file 03
Desert view looking out toward control towers: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0043)	flat file 03
Nuclear Rocket Development Station facility site complex, Nevada aerial photograph and diagrammed road map: photographic print, 1965 July (0282_0044)	flat file 03
Desert view looking out toward a control tower: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0045)	flat file 03
Spherical storage tanks: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0046)	flat file 03
Testing tower: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0047)	flat file 03
Mushroom cloud: photographic print, approximately 1945 to 1982 (0282_0048)	flat file 03
Unidentified underground nuclear testing facility possibly in Mercury, Nevada, approximately 1950 to 1982 (0282_0049)	folder 02
Unidentified facility possibly in Mercury, Nevada, approximately 1950 to 1982 (0282_0050)	folder 02