Guide to the Edward G. Halligan Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site

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Summary Information

Creator: Halligan, Edward
Title: Edward G. Halligan Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site
ID: PH-00101
Date [inclusive]: approximately 1960-1969
Physical Description: 1.1 Linear Feet 1 hanging folder and 1 flat file
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Edward G. Halligan Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site contains photographs of nuclear detonations at the Nevada Test Site from the 1960s. The photographs primarily depict aboveground nuclear explosions, but they also contain photographs of facilities, machinery, and personnel at the Nevada Test Site.

Preferred Citation


Historical Background

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) is in Nye County and is 65 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 U.S. 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 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, 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 of 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:

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**Scope and Contents Note**

The Edward G. Halligan Photograph Collection on the Nevada Test Site contains photographs of nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) from the 1960s, during which time Halligan worked in the Las Vegas, Nevada office of the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC) as operations coordinator for the NTS. The photographs primarily depict aboveground nuclear explosions, but they also contain photographs of facilities, machinery, and personnel at the Nevada Test Site.

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**Arrangement**

Materials are arranged by media type.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digital and available online.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1978 by Edward G. Halligan via Irma Halligan; accession number 1978-192.

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.

Related Materials

Related Materials

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


Nevada Test Site Oral History Project. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Controlled Access Headings

- photographs
- Nuclear weapons -- Testing
- Mushroom clouds
- Halligan, Edward
- Nevada Test Site (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Postcard: nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Folder 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postcard: nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Folder 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postcard: nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Folder 01</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>Postcard: nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Folder 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
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<td>Nuclear explosion, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Flat file 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test site equipment and machinery, approximately 1960-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employees and test site computers and monitoring systems, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Flat file 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test site equipment and machinery, approximately 1960-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test site facilities, approximately 1960-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinery on the exterior of the NTS, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Flat file 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Test Site buildings, approximately 1960-1969</td>
<td>Flat file 01</td>
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