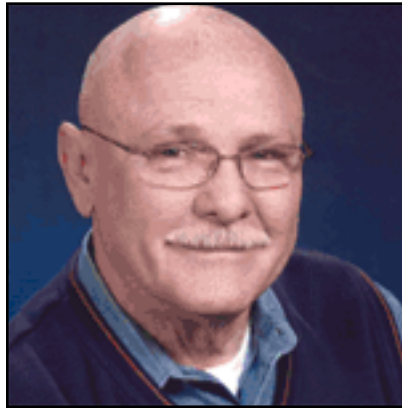


COLD WAR

RED WARRIORS PARTICIPATED IN ATOMIC BOMB TESTS

Ed Scherer observed Atomic bomb tests as a member of 1/12th

Originally scheduled to take place during Shot DIABLO, the exercise was rescheduled for Shot HOOD when DIABLO misfired. The Marine exercise had several objectives, including the training of personnel in the effects and employment of nuclear weapons, the formulation of tactics and techniques relative to nuclear war, and the training of personnel in passive defense measures against the effects of nuclear weapons. The post-shot troop maneuver involved a coordinated air-ground assault by a reinforced Marine battalion against a military objective. After observing the shot, the Marines were transported by helicopters to landing zones near the attack objective. A ground assault on the objective, supported by tactical aircraft, was to follow the airlift. When the objective was obtained at 11 a.m., more than six hours after the shot, some of the troops viewed an equipment display area, located from 240 to 2,170 meters from ground zero.



Another 100 project participants took part in 24 scientific tests and six operational training projects at Shot HOOD. AFSWC activities included the cloud penetration study, as well as such standard support missions as cloud sampling, courier missions, cloud tracking, and security sweeps. About 80 AFSWC aircrew took part in these activities at HOOD. **Shot SMOKY** was fired from a 700-foot tower in Yucca Flat at 5:30a.m. on Aug. 31, 1957. The shot had a yield of 44 kilotons.

Vet Speaks

A recent letter from a battalion veteran, Ed Scherer brings some little known history of the battalion to light. Scherer, was a member of HHC, 1/12th in 1957 and 58 when it was organized as a Battle Group under the Army's Pentomic Division concept. He states; "In August of 1957, I was further attached to a task force from the 1/12th which was designated to participate in nuclear testing at Camp Desert Rock in Yucca Flats, Nevada. Named Task Force WARRIOR, B Company (reinforced) observed and then conducted an air assault near the target area of a nuclear atmospheric detonation called shot



1500 TROOPS PARTAKE IN TESTS

At the time of the first survey, the 1 R/h line extended more than 6 kilometers to the southeast of ground zero. Exercise Desert Rock troops observed the detonation from a location 13 kilometers southwest of ground zero. The closest approach was 4,100 meters west of ground zero. Exercise Desert Rock activities at SMOKY included a troop test, the troop observer program, technical service projects, and radiological monitoring training. The most significant of these activities, an



attack and resupply maneuver, involved an estimated 1,150 troops. The initial phase of the project was conducted two weeks before the shot. Troops prepared defensive positions north and west of SMOKY ground zero for inspection after the shot. The troops, a reinforced Infantry Company named Task Force WARRIOR, were part of the 1st Battle Group, 12th Infantry, 4th Inf. Division, Ft. Lewis, WA. (Continued net page)

1957 TESTS WITNESSED BY 1/12 INFANTRY FROM FT. LEWIS

They observed the shot from assembly areas some 13 kilometers from ground zero. Fifteen minutes after the shot, a Pathfinder unit, accompanied by radiological monitors, flew into the objective area northwest of ground zero and determined it radiologically safe to occupy. At 5:50 a.m., assault elements of the task force had been brought into the objective area. The exercise ended at 9:45 a.m. on August 31, 1957.

About 200 additional participants took part in the scientific tests at SMOKY. Another 22 Navy and Air Force crewmen participated in operational training projects designed to indoctrinate personnel, practice photographic reconnaissance, and test indirect bomb damage assessment equipment and techniques. In addition to performing cloud sampling, sample courier returns, security sweeps, and cloud tracking missions, AFSWC pilots provided support to Desert Rock, AFSWP, UCRL, and CETG projects. More than 200 AFSWC aircrew personnel were involved in these activities.

Shot GALU-EO, with a yield of 11 kilotons of explosive energy, was detonated from a 500-foot tower at 5:40a.m. on September 2, 1957. At the time of the first survey, fallout of 1 R/h was detected as far as

2,750 meters northwest of ground zero. Exercise Desert Rock activities at GALILEO, which involved 300 individuals, included a troop test and two technical service projects. The troop test, conducted by the Human Resources Research Office (HumRRO), was to monitor the performance of persons who had witnessed a nuclear detonation for the first time.

