

Army crew inspects site of bomb explosion

United Press International
DUGWAY, Utah—A special Army inspection team from Maryland yesterday began investigating the explosion of a tank full of deadly nerve gas bombs at the Dugway Proving Ground.

No one was injured when a tank containing 31 grapefruit-size bombs blew up Monday while workmen were trying to disarm the weapons. The explosion sent a deadly chemical mist over about a 200 square foot area.

Col. Adalbert E. Toepel Jr., base commander, said the bombs, left over from nerve gas experiments conducted in the 1960s, were being "demilitarized" in a remote area of the sprawling desert test base 20 miles from Dugway.

Workmen were pumping sodium hydroxide solution by remote control into the tanks. The solution was supposed to dissolve the aluminum bomb casings and then neutralize the chemical agent GB and explosives.

But the four-foot cubical tank exploded and seven halves of the two-section bomblets leaked GB, a chemical agent that kills humans on contact.

Dick Whitaker, base public affairs office for Dugway, said 20 to 25 people were evacuated from the area, but no one was close enough to be contaminated.

Youth agencies training program opens this fall

A program to train students for careers in such youth agencies as the Scouts, Red Cross, 4-H, the "Y" and others will begin this fall at Texas A&M University under a cooperative arrangement with American Humanities Inc., a non-profit organization.

The program, utilizing courses already offered at Texas A&M, is supported by a three-year grant totaling \$116,135 and will make Texas A&M the only university in the Southwest to have such a training network. AH Inc. has affiliations on nine other campuses nationwide.

The group's new campus administrator, Edward L. Rogers of Fort Worth, said the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is providing \$56,725 for the project and AH Inc. has awarded \$59,410.

Students will be able to train for professions in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys/Girls Clubs and Junior Achievement as well as YM-CAYWCA, the Scouts, 4-H and Red Cross.

Rogers, 28, is a 1970 graduate of Texas A&M and was formerly a district executive for the Longhorn Council (Fort Worth) of the Boy Scouts.

He will maintain an office in Harrington Education Center.

AH Inc. helps train professionals by coordinating administration, internships, placement, student loans, field trips and workshops while the universities provide needed course work.

A&M associate education dean Donald L. Clark said the cooperative arrangement evolved from a conference held here two years ago to investigate projected needs and competencies for youth agencies and their professionals in the following five-year period.

The poison was different from the type that killed 6,000 sheep in Skull Valley several miles to the north during a 1968 open-air test. In that experiment, the agent VX was released from an airplane and picked up by a storm that carried across a mountain range.

Whitaker said an inspection team from Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland was conducting an investigation and further disarming of the bombs would be delayed until the cause of the explosion was determined.

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