

# Government admits bomb caused cancer

**United Press International**  
LOS ANGELES — In an "extremely rare" decision, the government has admitted an Army corporal's cancer was caused by exposure to radiation in six nuclear bomb tests in Nevada in the 1950s.

Attorneys for James O'Connor, 46, said Monday the Veterans Administration Board of Veterans Appeal ruled the former Army communications worker's skin cancer stemmed from his involvement in six nuclear tests at Desert Rock, Nev., in 1955.

"These decisions are extremely rare," said Lewis Golinker, a lawyer for the National Veterans Law Center in Washington, which represented O'Connor.

"Basically, the Veterans Administration acknowledged the skin cancer was radiation-induced."

VA spokesman Frank Terry said, of the 1,803 veterans who claimed they contracted "skin disorders" at nuclear test sites, 14 were granted service-connected disability.

VA officials will determine the amount of benefits to which O'Connor is entitled based on the board's ruling and the financial losses incurred by the O'Connors.

O'Connor, who has not worked for the nearly 10 years since his ailment was diagnosed, lives in suburban Burbank with his wife, Bethann.

"My husband is delighted we've finally gotten at least some piece of good news," Mrs. O'Connor said Monday. But she said, O'Connor is "very bitter like a lot of other veterans" toward the VA and was further aggravated that the board refused to acknowledge a muscular disease from which he also suffers was related to his military experience.

Mrs. O'Connor said her husband, who receives Social Security disability payments, "walks with a cane, his condition is weak and he's in constant pain because of his muscle disease."

She added: "His eyes are weak and he's lost all his teeth in the last couple of years."

She said the couple had spent the last 10 years pursuing the

disability claim, incurring a monthly average of \$275 in medical bills.

O'Connor witnessed six nuclear explosions from as close as 3,500 yards while serving as a communications worker, his wife said.

Mrs. O'Connor said one of the explosions was four times stronger than the bomb that leveled Hiroshima during World War II.

"The government admitted his exposure to radiation was somewhere between their (original) contention and what we said it was," said Lewis Millford, a National Veteran Law Center attorney who also represented O'Connor. "The government's contention their measurements are correct has been the big issue in the other cases."

The VA board, however, said there was not enough evidence to support O'Connor's claim his muscle disorder called dermatomyositis stemmed from his exposure to the radiation.

"But they left the door open for him to refile a claim in the future should there be additional information," Millford said.



photo by Terry D...

## September scenes ... today!

Senior Larry Morris leads some of the cadets involved in the Corps of Cadets' summer compression program to a meeting with military advisers. Morris, a management major from

Houston, is in charge of the compression program during which non-freshmen about to enter the Corps for the first time spend a summer session catching up on what they've missed.

# NASA plans space station by 1990s

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The space agency has taken a major step toward development of a space station that would give Americans a permanent presence in orbit.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Monday it will award study contracts to eight aerospace companies — five based in California, one in Seattle, one in Denver and one in Bethpage, N.Y.

The studies, each costing less than \$1 million and taking eight months, are expected to provide the rationale for construction of a multi-billion-dollar base in orbit.

Such a space station would house three to five men and women. They would be ferried up and supplied by the shuttle and crews would rotate to keep the base manned indefinitely.

NASA administrator James M. Beggs said in a recent interview the next step after completion of the eight studies will be to conduct a more detailed study to define what the space station should look like and how it should be built. This work is expected to be completed in 1984.

If the agency can convince the Reagan administration and Congress that such a station in space is needed, Beggs said he hopes to seek money for fiscal

1985 to begin work on the assembly. He said it could be in operation in the early 1990s.

NASA said the studies will contribute to the development of specific mission requirements and overall architectural options which will be incorporated in a permanent orbiting facility.

"These studies are part of a space station planning activity underway at NASA for consideration by the administration and Congress as the next major initiative in space," the agency said.

The agency said the studies are expected to identify and analyze the scientific, commercial, national security and space operational missions that could be most effectively conducted by a space station.

The initial study contracts were awarded to the Boeing Aerospace Co., Seattle; General Dynamics Convair Division, San Diego; Grumman Aerospace Corp., Bethpage, N.Y.; Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, Calif.; Martin Marietta Aerospace, Denver; McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Co., Huntington Beach, Calif.; Rockwell International Space Operations-Integration and Satellite Systems Division, Downey, Calif.; and TRW Inc. Defense and Space Systems Group, Redondo Beach, Calif.

# Behavior modification for impulsive buyers

**United Press International**  
LINCOLN, Neb. — Dieters aren't the only people who can benefit from behavior modification techniques.

Impulse buyers can use unplanned purchases as part of an overall plan if they take the time to think through their decision to buy, says an extension consumer education specialist.

Janet Wilson, of the University of Nebraska, says compulsive buying can become either a true bargain at a time when you need it or a disastrous error.

Buying prompted by fear, worry, hate, revenge or high spirits provides only temporary satisfaction, she says, and results

in less money to spend for other things.

Think about what you will be giving up to make an unplanned purchase, Wilson says. Estimate the number of hours you must work to pay for the item or the extra cost or credit. Ask yourself if it's worthwhile.

"Sleep on the decision. The bigger the purchase, the more the nights," she said.

Even if you decide to buy, she says, comparison shop at three places. Look one day and buy on another.

Instead of cash, pay by check. Before you write the check and deduct the amount from your balance, think twice about what you are doing.

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