



Operation Teapot

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Operation Teapot was a series of 14 [nuclear test](#) explosions conducted at the [Nevada Test Site](#) in the first half of 1955. It was preceded by *[Operation Castle](#)*, and followed by *[Operation Wigwam](#)*. *Wigwam* was, administratively, a part of *Teapot*, but it is usually treated as a class of its own. The aims of the operation were to establish military tactics for ground forces on a nuclear battlefield and to improve the nuclear weapons used for [strategic delivery](#).^[1]

Individual blasts [[edit](#)]

Wasp [[edit](#)]

During shot *Wasp*, ground forces took part in [Exercise Desert Rock VI](#) which included an armored task force *Razor* moving to within 900 metres (3,000 ft) of ground zero, under the still-forming [mushroom cloud](#).^[2]

Bee [[edit](#)]

An augmented [test unit](#) from the [United States Marine Corps](#) participated in shot *Bee* during the March 1955 exercises.^[2]

MET [[edit](#)]

The *MET* was the first bomb core to include [uranium-233](#) (a rarely used [fissile isotope](#) that is the product of [thorium-232](#) neutron absorption), [along with plutonium](#); this was based on the plutonium/U-235 pit from the TX-7E, a prototype [Mark 7 nuclear bomb](#) design used in the 1951 *[Operation Buster-Jangle](#)* *Easy* test. It produced a yield of 22kt (comparable to the *[Fat Man](#)* plutonium-only weapon that exploded over Nagasaki), but significantly less than the expected amount. Since it was a military effects test, the DoD specified that the device should have a calibrated yield within 10% of ratings. However, weapon designers at Los Alamos substituted the experimental core without notifying the DoD. The unexpected lower yield, 33% less than the DoD expected, ruined many of the military's tests.^{[3][4]}

Apple-2 [[edit](#)]

"Doom Town" redirects here. For the card game, see [Doomtown](#).
See also: [Japanese Village \(Dugway Proving Ground\)](#) and [Nevada Test Site § Landmarks and geography](#)

The Civil Defense *Apple-2* shot on May 5, 1955 was intended to test various building construction types in a nuclear blast. An assortment of buildings, including residential houses and [electrical substations](#), were constructed at the site nicknamed "**Survival Town**" by some and "**Doom Town**" by others.^[5] The buildings were populated with mannequins, and stocked with different types of canned and packaged foods. Not all of the buildings were destroyed in the blast, and some of them still stand at [Area 1](#), Nevada Test Site. A short film about the blast, referred to as "Operation Cue", was distributed by the [Federal Civil Defense Administration](#). The houses are still standing at [37.04476°N 116.07416°W](#), at the east and west ends of the road loop. They are stops on the [Nevada National Security Site](#) (NNSS) tour.

From declassified documents dated February to May 1956, the Apple-2 shot, as part of Operation Teapot Project 35.5 "Effects of Nuclear Explosion on Records and Records Storage Equipment" was staged on the Nevada Test Site to determine the effects of nuclear explosions on various types of records and record storage equipment.^[6]

Teapot series tests [[edit](#)]

United States' Teapot series tests and detonations									
Name ^[note 1]	Date time (UT)	Local time zone ^[note 2]	Location ^[note 3]	Elevation + height ^[note 4]	Delivery ^[note 5]	Purpose ^[note 6]	Device ^[note 7]	Yield ^[note 8]	Venting ^{[n}
<i>Wasp</i>	February 18, 1955 <div>19:59:59.2</div>	PST (−8 h)	<div>NTS Area 7</div> <div> 37.0866°N 116.0228°W</div>	1,268 m (4,160 ft) + 230 m (750 ft)	free air drop	weapons development		1 kt	I-131 vent detected, 160 kCi (5,900 TB

Operation Teapot



Teapot-MET (Military Effects Test), 22-kilotons

Information

Country	United States
Test site	NTS Areas 5, 11, Frenchman Flat NTS, Areas 1–4, 6–10, Yucca Flat
Period	1955
Number of tests	14
Test type	cratering, free air drop, parachuted, tower
Max. yield	43 kilotonnes of TNT (180 TJ)

Test series chronology

← [Operation Castle](#) [Operation Wigwam](#) →

Map all coordinates in "Operation Teapot" using [OpenStreetMap](#)

Download coordinates as: [\[show links\]](#)



Operation Cue (1955)


<i>Moth</i>	February 22, 1955 13:00:45.0	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 3  37.0477°N 116.022°W	1,230 m (4,040 ft) + 90 m (300 ft)	tower	weapons development	XW-30 ?	2 kt	I-131 vent detected, 320 kCi (12,000 T
<i>Tesla</i>	March 1, 1955 13:00:30.3	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 9b  37.1255°N 116.0484°W	1,282 m (4,206 ft) + 90 m (300 ft)	tower	weapons development	Cleo I	7 kt	I-131 vent detected, 1.2 MCi (44 PBq)
<i>Turk</i>	March 7, 1955 13:00:20.2	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 2  37.1383°N 116.1184°W	1,370 m (4,490 ft) + 150 m (490 ft)	tower	weapons development	XW-27D "Linda" lightweight secondary ^[12]	43 kt	I-131 vent detected, 6.4 MCi (240 PBq)
<i>Hornet</i>	March 12, 1955 13:19:59.8	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 3a  37.0402°N 116.0261°W	1,224 m (4,016 ft) + 90 m (300 ft)	tower	weapons development	XW-30 ?	4 kt	I-131 vent detected, 620 kCi (23,000 T
<i>Bee</i>	March 22, 1955 13:04:59.9	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 7  37.0947°N 116.0248°W	1,294 m (4,245 ft) + 150 m (490 ft)	tower	weapons development	XW-25 ?	8 kt	I-131 vent detected, 1.2 MCi (44 PBq)
<i>ESS</i>	March 23, 1955 20:00:30.0	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 10  37.1683°N 116.0448°W	1,298 m (4,259 ft) - 20 m (66 ft)	cratering	weapon effect	Mk-6 HE	1 kt	I-131 vent detected, 140 kCi (5,200 TB
<i>Apple-1</i>	March 29, 1955 12:00:55.1	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 4  37.0955°N 116.1037°W	1,317 m (4,321 ft) + 150 m (490 ft)	tower	weapons development		14 kt	I-131 vent detected, (74 PBq)
<i>Wasp Prime</i>	March 29, 1955 17:59:54.8	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 7  37.0866°N 116.0586°W	1,261 m (4,137 ft) + 230 m (750 ft)	free air drop	weapons development		3.2 kt	I-131 vent detected, 450 kCi (17,000 T
<i>HA</i>	April 6, 1955 18:00:04.1	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 1  37.0286°N 116.0586°W	1,280 m (4,200 ft) + 11.16 kilometres (6.93 mi)	parachuted	weapon effect		3.2 kt	I-131 vent detected, 450 kCi (17,000 T
<i>Post</i>	April 9, 1955 12:00:30.2	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 9  37.1226°N 116.0347°W	1,294 m (4,245 ft) + 90 m (300 ft)	tower	weapons development	Cleo II	2 kt	I-131 vent detected, 340 kCi (13,000 T
<i>MET</i>	April 15, 1955 19:00:15.3	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 5  36.798°N	940 m (3,080 ft) +	tower	weapon effect		22 kt	I-131 vent detected,

			115.9298°W	120 m (390 ft)					3.1 MCi (110 PBq)
<i>Apple-2</i>	May 5, 1955 12:00:10.0	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 1 37.053°N 116.1034°W	1,294 m (4,245 ft) + 150 m (490 ft)	tower	weapons development		29 kt	I-131 vent detected, 4.1 MCi (150 PBq)
<i>Zucchini</i>	May 15, 1955 11:59:59.9	PST (−8 h)	NTS Area 7 37.0947°N 116.0248°W	1,294 m (4,245 ft) + 150 m (490 ft)	tower	weapons development		28 kt	I-131 vent detected, (150 PBq)

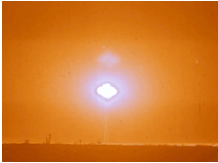
Table notes:

1. [^] The US, France and Great Britain have code-named their test events, while the USSR and China have not, and therefore have only test numbers (with some exceptions - Soviet peaceful explosions were named). Word translations into English in parentheses unless the name is a proper noun. A dash followed by a number indicates a member of a salvo event. The US also sometimes named the individual explosions in such a salvo test, which results in "name1 - 1(with name2)". If test is canceled or aborted, then the row data like date and location discloses the intended plans, where known.
2. [^] To convert the UT time into standard local, add the number of hours in parentheses to the UT time; for local daylight saving time, add one additional hour. If the result is earlier than 00:00, add 24 hours and subtract 1 from the day; if it's 24:00 or later, subtract 24 hours and add 1 to the day.
3. [^] Rough place name and a Latitude/Longitude reference; for rocket-carried tests, the launch location is specified before the detonation location, if known. Some locations are extremely accurate; others (like airdrops and space blasts) may be quite inaccurate. "−" indicates a likely pro-forma rough location, shared with other tests in that same area.
4. [^] Elevation is the ground level at the point directly below the explosion relative to sea level; height is the additional distance added or subtracted by tower, balloon, shaft, tunnel, air drop or other contrivance. For rocket bursts the ground level is "N/A". In some cases it is not clear if the height is absolute or relative to ground, for example, *Plumbbob/John*. No number or units indicates the value is unknown, while "0" means zero. Sorting on this column is by elevation and height added together.
5. [^] Atmospheric, airdrop, balloon, gun, cruise missile, rocket, surface, tower, and barge are all disallowed by the [Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#). Sealed shaft and tunnel are underground, and remained useful under the PTBT. Intentional cratering tests are borderline; they occurred under the treaty, were sometimes protested, and generally overlooked if the test was declared to be a peaceful use.
6. [^] Include weapons development, weapon effects, safety test, transport safety test, war, science, joint verification and industrial/peaceful, which may be further broken down.
7. [^] Designations for test items where known, "?" indicates some uncertainty about the preceding value, nicknames for particular devices in quotes. This category of information is often not officially disclosed.
8. [^] Estimated energy yield in tonnes, kilotonnes, and megatonnes (all metric units).
9. [^] Emissions to atmosphere, where known. The measured species is only iodine-131 if mentioned, otherwise it is all species. No entry means unknown, probably none if underground and everything if not; otherwise notation for whether measured on the site only or off the site, where known, and the measured amount of radioactivity released.

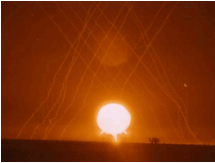
Gallery [\[edit \]](#)



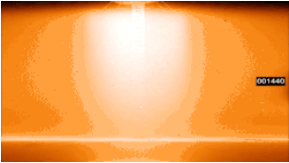
Teapot-*Hornet*, 4-kilotons




Teapot-*Bee*, 8-kilotons




Teapot-*Turk*, 43-kilotons




Teapot-*Turk*, close-up of fireball within first few milliseconds of detonations




Teapot-*Moth*, 2-kilotons



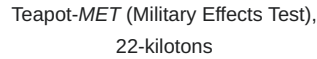
"Effects Sub-surface". Test for ADM (Atomic Demolition Munition)



Teapot-*ESS*, 1-kiloton



One of the shot-towers of the Teapot test, unknown device




See also [\[edit \]](#)

- ## References [\[edit \]](#)

- ## External links [[edit](#)]

- The short film [Big Picture: The Atom Soldier](#) is available for free viewing and download at the [Internet Archive](#).
- The short film [Nuclear Test Film – Operation Teapot \(1954\)](#) is available for free viewing and download at the [Internet Archive](#).
- The short film [Operation Cue \(1955\)](#) is available for free viewing and download at the [Internet Archive](#).
- The short film [Big Picture: Individual Protection Against Atomic Attack](#) is available for free viewing and download at the [Internet Archive](#).
- NPR web page: effect on commercial beverages [\[1\]](#)
- [YouTube – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory \(LLNL\): "Operation Teapot – Turk 28112" video](#)
- [YouTube – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Channel: LLNL Atmospheric Nuclear Tests website](#) – *all uploaded LLNL videos of tests between 1945 and 1962, including 28 of Operation Teapot.*

 Wikimedia Commons has media related to *Operation Teapot*.