

## **Anglo-American defense focus of exhibit at BSM**

*By Tatjana K. Rosev*

The Bradbury Science Museum is hosting a traveling exhibit, The 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement, from April 6 to June 30, 2009. The historical exhibit was created by the British Atomic Weapons Establishment and marks the 50th anniversary of the agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The bilateral treaty was signed during the Cold War, after the UK had successfully tested its first hydrogen bomb. It enables the two countries to improve their nuclear weapon research, design, development, engineering and fabrication capability, said Glenn Mara, principal associate director for Weapons Programs. This includes the evaluation of enemy capabilities; development of defense plans; training personnel in the use and defense against nuclear weapons; and research, development, and design of military reactors, he said.

Today that partnership continues to provide security for both nations as the global security environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century continues to evolve in new and unexpected ways. For example, the agreement provides for the transfer of special nuclear material components and equipment between the two countries. It also enabled the UK to conduct underground nuclear tests at the U.S. Nevada Test Site, the first of which took place on March 1, 1962, Mara said.

A timeline of events, pictures, and artifacts tell the story of the diplomacy and collaboration between the U.S. and the UK from World War II and the Cold War to today, said Museum Director Linda Deck. Visitors can learn about cold war tensions, espionage, and nuclear experiments.

The Bradbury Science Museum is located at 15th Street and Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. Admission is free.

For more information, call the museum at 7-4444 or go to the [museum's Web site](#).

The Bradbury Science Museum is part of the Community Programs Office (CPO).