Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 1:37 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

MAR 13 2009 06

Name: John Greenewald

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Record Description:

Between August and September 1958, the US Navy exploded three fission type nuclear bombs 480 km above the South Atlantic Ocean, in the part of the lower Van Allen Belt closest to the earth's surface. In addition, two hydrogen bombs were detonated 160 km over Johnston Island in the Pacific. The military called this "the biggest scientific experiment ever undertaken." It was designed by the US Department of Defense and the US Atomic Energy Commission, under the code name Project Argus. The purpose appears to be to assess the impact of high altitude nuclear explosions on radio transmission and radar operations because of the electromagnetic pulse (EMP), and to increase understanding of the geomagnetic field and the behavior of the charged particles in it.

I respectfully request all documents pertaining to Project Argus, and all other records relating to this test, which includes, but is not limited to, memos, reports, videos, letters, electronic records, etc.

Preferred Form or Format: pdf files

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Type of Media (if provided):

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I agree to pay up to a specified amount for fees. Enter amount $ 10

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

Expedited Processing:

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing:

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