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## **TRINITY**

### **THE BEGINNING OF DTRA'S HE & NE TESTING**

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On 16 July 1945 the United States, under direction of the Manhattan Engineering District (MED), detonated the world's first nuclear bomb in the northern part of what is now White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). After TRINITY, the director General Leslie Groves, formed the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, DTRA's predecessor, from the military component of the MED. TRINITY and its lesser known 108-ton HE calibration event set the pattern for the many nuclear and high explosive tests conducted by DTRA since. Beginning with the 1975 DICE THROW HE series DTRA has conducted a number of large HE tests in close proximity to the TRINITY site. With the strong foreign government participation in these tests, many MABS participants have seen and perhaps wondered about the still standing long lines of instrumentation cables, the old bunkers, McDonald's Ranch, and even the fenced-in TRINITY ground zero itself. This paper reviews the history of TRINITY and its impact on DTRA's HE testing at WSMR and presents supporting photographs, drawings and maps.