



# FACT SHEET

Office of the  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)  
**Deployment Health Support Directorate**

For more information  
(703) 578 - 8500  
(800) 497 - 6261

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Version 10-09-2002

## **Deseret Test Center Project SHAD**

### **DTC Test 69-10**

Shortly after President Kennedy's inauguration in 1961, the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, directed that a total review of the U.S. military be undertaken. The study consisted of 150 separate projects. The chemical and biological warfare review was known as Project 112. As part of the Project 112 review, the Joint Chiefs of Staff convened a working committee that recommended a research, testing, and development program for chemical and biological weapons. To oversee this program, the Deseret Test Center was established at Fort Douglas, Utah, in 1962. Both land-based and ship-based tests were conducted during the period 1962 – 1973. The Deseret Test Center closed in 1973.

In DTC Test 69-10, units of a US Marine Corps Ready Group were subjected to a simulated chemical agent spray attack while engaged in an amphibious assault. The purpose of the test was to determine the operational effects of a persistent, toxic, chemical agent spray attack on US amphibious forces. The objectives of the test were to assess the performance degradation of troops wearing protective clothing and to illustrate the effectiveness of existing chemical weapons. Contamination of ships and equipment supporting the landing was also assessed.

The test was conducted in two parts: aerial spray attacks against Battalion Landing Team (Minus), BLT(-), and company sized USMC amphibious landing forces; and, an aerial spray attack against the primary control ship of an amphibious assault force. During all trials, sampling was conducted on exposed personnel, and their clothing, to determine if they were contaminated with the simulant. Performance of the troops, the landing craft crews, and the

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ship's crew was evaluated with regard to the response of personnel to the attack and their subsequent ability to operate in a simulated toxic environment.

Missions flown by Marine A-4 aircraft carrying Aero 14B spray tanks delivered trioctyl phosphate (tri [2-ethylhexyl] phosphate) to simulate VX nerve agent. The USS *Fort Snelling* (LSD-30) was the target ship for the ship trial.

DTC Test 69-10 was conducted in May 1969 on the beaches of Vieques island, six miles east of Puerto Rico.

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<b>Test Name</b>	DTC Test 69-10
<b>Testing Organization</b>	US Army Deseret Test Center
<b>Test Dates</b>	May 1969
<b>Test Location</b>	Vieques island, six miles east of Puerto Rico
<b>Test Operations</b>	To determine the operational effects of a persistent, toxic, chemical agent spray attack on US amphibious forces.
<b>Participating Services</b>	US Navy, US Marine Corps, Deseret Test Center personnel
<b>Units and Ships Involved</b>	Landing Force Carib 1-69/BLT 1/8 (attached and supporting personnel from 2d Marine Division)VMA-324, MAG-32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing USS <i>Fort Snelling</i> (LSD-30)
<b>Dissemination Procedures</b>	Sprayed from Marine A-4 aircraft equipped with Aero 14B spray tanks.
<b>Agents, Simulants, Tracers</b>	Tri (2-ethylhexyl) phosphate
<b>Ancillary Testing</b>	Not identified
<b>Decontamination</b>	Not identified
<b>Potential Health Risks Associated with Agents, Simulants, Tracers</b>	<u>Triethyl phosphate</u> (tri(2-ethylhexyl) phosphate) (TOF) Used as a nontoxic simulant for VX nerve agent. TOF is a viscous, colorless or pale yellow liquid. It can irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract on contact. It can cause cancer in some animal species, but this has not been demonstrated in humans.

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(Sources: NLM TOXNET, Trioctyl phosphate 1806-54-8 or Tris(2-ethylhexyl)phosphate 78-42-2, HSDB Human Health Effects and Animal Toxicity Studies, available at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>. [http://physchem.ox.ac.uk/MSDS/TR/tris\(2-ethylhexyl\)phosphate.html](http://physchem.ox.ac.uk/MSDS/TR/tris(2-ethylhexyl)phosphate.html) [as of September 25, 2002] and [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cis/products/icsc/dtasht/\\_icsc09/icsc0968.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cis/products/icsc/dtasht/_icsc09/icsc0968.pdf) [as of September 25, 2002]).

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