

JOURNAL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

Volume 36, Issue #9

September 2003

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Nuclear Scientist Dr. Edward Teller 'Father of the H-bomb' Dies at Age 95



STANFORD, Calif., Sept. 9 — Edward Teller, a member of the Manhattan Project that created the first atomic bomb and who later emerged as the foremost champion of the vastly more destructive hydrogen bomb, has died. He was 95.

Teller, dubbed the "father of the H-bomb" and a key advocate of the anti-missile shield known as "Star Wars," died Tuesday at his home on the Stanford University campus.

Teller was a tireless advocate of a vigorous United States defense policy during and after the Cold War, urging development of advanced weapons as way to deter war.

"The second half of the century has been incomparably more peaceful than the first, simply by putting power into the hands of those people who wanted peace," he told a forum on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Japan.

Teller's staunch support for defense stemmed in part from two events that shaped his view of world affairs — the 1919 communist revolution in his native Hungary and the rise of Nazism while he lived in Germany in the early 1930s.

Witty and personable, with a passion for playing the piano, Teller nevertheless was a persuasive Cold Warrior who influenced presidents of both parties.

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[The Journal of Civil Defense is the official monthly newsletter of The American Civil Defense Association.]

In 1939, he was one of three scientists who encouraged Albert Einstein to alert President Franklin Roosevelt that the power of nuclear fission — the splitting of an atom's nucleus — could be tapped to create a devastating new weapon.

He would later quip that he often believed the only reason he became a part of the trio was "because I was the only one who knew how to drive and had a car to get us there."

Two years later, even before the first atom bomb was completed, fellow scientist Enrico Fermi suggested that nuclear fusion — fusing rather than splitting nuclei — might be used for an even more destructive explosive, the hydrogen bomb.

Teller's enthusiasm and pursuit of such a bomb won him the title "father of the H-bomb," a characterization he said he hated. The first megaton H-bomb was exploded in 1952.

The H-bomb was never used in war, but atom bombs were dropped on Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some scientists had suggested at the time that a bomb be exploded in the sky miles over Tokyo harbor in hopes of scaring Japan into surrendering with a minimum of casualties.

"I think we shared the opportunity and the duty, which we did not pursue, to find... a possibility to demonstrate" the bomb, Teller said at the anniversary forum. "Now in retrospect I have a regret."

Among honors Teller received were the Albert Einstein Award, the Enrico Fermi Award and the National Medal of Science and, in July, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Teller also will be remembered for his role in destroying the career of his one-time boss, Robert Oppenheimer — which alienated Teller from many of his colleagues.

Teller claimed Oppenheimer, who had directed the Manhattan Project, had slowed development of the H-bomb, allowing the Soviet Union to catch up. The allegations became the basis for the most serious charges brought against Oppenheimer in 1954 when his security clearance was lifted.

In his memoirs, published in 2001, Teller remained critical of Oppenheimer but said he was stupid to testify against him. Teller also said he was motivated not by Oppenheimer's opposition to the hydrogen bomb, but by the way Oppenheimer had treated another man.

Teller was born Jan. 15, 1908, in Budapest. He received his university education in Germany, earning a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Leipzig.

In 1935, Teller and his wife, Mici, came to the United States, where Teller was a professor at George Washington University until 1941, the same year the Tellers became U.S. citizens.

Teller joined the Manhattan Project in 1942 at Los Alamos (N.M.) Scientific Laboratory to work on developing the first atomic bomb. He also promoted the hydrogen fusion bomb, a concept that attracted interest but remained secondary to the work on the atomic weapon.

After the success of the Manhattan Project, Teller left in 1946 to become a physics professor at the University of Chicago.

When the Soviets tested their first atomic bomb in 1949, Teller persuaded the Truman administration to push ahead on H-bomb research. He returned to Los Alamos and worked on the bomb through the first megaton-scale explosion at Eniwetok in the Pacific in 1952.

At the same time, Teller pushed for the creation of a second national science lab — the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He became a consultant there in 1952, associate director in 1954 and director from 1958-60. He continued as a consultant at the lab after retiring in 1975.

"He put his heart and soul into this laboratory and into ensuring the security of this nation, and his dedication never foundered," said Michael Anastasio, director of the lab.

In 1983, Teller persuaded President Reagan that space-based laser weapons could provide a secure anti-missile defense. Reagan bought the idea and proposed the multibillion-dollar Strategic Defense Initiative, dubbed "Star Wars."

Computer experts raised doubts early on about the reliability of the complex software required for a Star Wars system. But even as the evidence mounted that Star Wars would cost billions more than originally expected and would take years longer to develop, Teller continued to support it.

"The danger for ballistic missiles in the hands of 18 different nations has increased, and will increase, unless we have a defense," he said. "If we want to have stable, peaceful conditions, defense against sudden attack by rockets is more needed than ever."

Mici Teller, his wife of 66 years, died in 2000. He is survived by his son, Paul Teller, his daughter, Wendy Teller, four grandchildren and a great grandchild.

In Teller's autobiography "Memoirs: A Twentieth-Century Journey in Science and Politics," Teller said he was often asked whether he regretted having worked on the atomic and hydrogen bombs.

"My answer is no. I deeply regret the deaths and injuries that resulted from the atomic bombings, but my best explanation of why I do not regret working on weapons is a question: What if we hadn't?"

U.S. Terrorist Advisory Targets Canadian Flights

By Estanislao Ozievich and Steven Chase

TORONTO and OTTAWA -- Al-Qaeda is planning to hijack commercial airliners flying over or near the United States for use in kamikaze-style attacks, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned yesterday -- a prospect that would put Canada directly in the terrorist network's sights.

Most of the flights that meet the Homeland Security Department specifications originate north of the border -- the advisory excluded flights landing in the United States. Instead, the department is concerned about flights that take off and land in other countries but whose paths take them near enough to U.S. soil to launch an attack.

CNN reported last night that U.S. officials have been working with their Canadian counterparts over the past several weeks to improve security measures.

However, although Canadian transport officials contacted last night acknowledged that they have been co-operating with U.S. officials to boost aviation security steadily since Sept. 11, they said there has been no spike in antiterrorist planning over the past month.

The Homeland Security advisory says Al-Qaeda operatives have been studying countries that have the least restrictive requirements for entry, identifying those where airline flights would be easiest to board and allowing them to take control of the planes and crash them into targets while flying over or near the United States.

It says operatives took a special interest in Washington's decision last month to suspend programs that had allowed some foreigners to travel through the United States without visas.

This "demonstrates that the group sees international flights transiting the U.S. as candidates for takeover and use in aerial suicide attacks," the advisory says.

"We remain concerned about Al-Qaeda's continued efforts to plan multiple attacks against the U.S. and U.S. interests overseas," the department said. "However, at this time, we

have no specific information on individual targets or dates for any attack."

After Sept. 11, 2001, the Canadian government announced plans to plow \$2-billion into extra aviation security over the next five years, including bomb-detection equipment for most major airports, improved passenger screening and armed air marshals on selected flights.

Canada even announced in November of 2001 that it would change its laws so that the information travelers give to airlines can be handed over to U.S. Customs and Immigration officials.

U.S. officials asked shortly after Sept. 11 for passenger manifests from Canadian planes to be sent before the flights to customs officials to speed screening.

The U.S. color-coded terrorist alert level was raised last year - from yellow (elevated risk) to orange (high risk) -- on the eve of the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks, with U.S. officials warning that Al-Qaeda might try to stage an attack to mark the day. The anniversary passed without incident in the United States.

The alert is now yellow, and the Department of Homeland Security said in its notice that no change is anticipated before next Thursday's anniversary.

"Arrests over the past several months of key Al-Qaeda members around the world may have disrupted some plans," it says. "We do know, however, that operatives still at large view attacks on U.S. territory as a priority and that they continue to pursue a range of targets, tactics and capabilities to accomplish this objective."

Larry Medford, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's executive assistant director for counterterrorism and counterintelligence, told reporters in Washington yesterday that although Al-Qaeda has suffered a number of setbacks, it remains a threat.

Bush: FBI 'Fully Engaged' in Anti-Terror War

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 2003 -- America has been on the offensive at home and overseas against global terrorists in the two years since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, President Bush told FBI employees today at the agency's crime laboratory at Quantico, VA.

In his address, the president praised the FBI, noting the agency "is fully engaged" in the war on terror, helping the nation make progress against would-be terrorists.

Efforts by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security on the home front, he added, also are helping to protect Americans from terrorists.

Since 9-11, Bush said, the FBI has doubled its assets used in uprooting terrorist plots against this country. The bureau, he added, also has become better at analyzing and sharing intelligence information with other government organizations.

Consequently, the "left hand now knows what the right hand is doing," the president remarked, noting that U.S. government agencies are using more teamwork to uncover threats to the homeland.

As a result, Bush noted, terrorist fronts in Buffalo, N.Y.; Portland, Ore.; Tampa, Fla.; Seattle; Detroit; and North Carolina have been broken up. More than 260 suspected terrorists have been brought before U.S. courts, he added, resulting in more than 140 convictions.

The Transportation Security Administration – part of DHS -- now has 48,000 professional security employees working at the nation's airports, the president pointed out. And every piece of baggage going on an airplane, he noted, is now being electronically screened.

The presence of thousands of federal air marshals aboard U.S. flights and the hardening of cockpit doors are also helping to make the skies over America safer, Bush said, forestalling "planes from being used as weapons against the American people."

DHS is also making U.S. borders more secure, Bush said, by increased surveillance and working with the State Department to conduct enhanced visitor background and visa application checks.

These measures, he noted, prevent terrorists from gaining entry into the country, noting that America's borders "must be closed to criminals and terrorists."

Yet America will remain "a welcoming society" for law-abiding families, tourists, students and business people from other countries, the president said.

Since the 9-11 attacks, the United States "has made the largest commitment to securing its seaports since World War II," Bush pointed out. The Coast Guard, he continued, has conducted more than 124,000 port security patrols and more than 13,000 air patrols, and has boarded more than 92,000 vessels.

Also, ships' captains now are required to provide electronic cargo manifests 24 hours in advance of container loading, Bush explained, to allow U.S. officials "time to check for potential dangers."

Steps for Organizing a Neighborhood Emergency Plan ***By Sharon Packer, TACDA Vice-President***

In a widespread emergency, prompt state or federal assistance might not be available to the many people needing help. What could you and your neighbors do?

Churches and communities in many areas of the country have designed and used this and similar plans to organize neighborhoods into 'self-help' units. This is a great tool for making your community a better, safer place to live.

The following goals were considered:

- Rescue people whose lives are threatened.
- Provide first aid.
- Account for the condition and location of all neighbors.
- Provide emergency water, food, clothing, and housing.
- Restore normal living conditions as quickly as possible.
- Prevent or limit property damage.
- Fortify social, emotional, and spiritual strength.

Be able to report to civil authorities the following information:

- Your name and how you can be reached.
- Description, location, and magnitude of the emergency.
- Names of any injured, missing or dead, their next of kin, and how they can be located.
- Location and extent of property damage.
- Number of persons needed to provide assistance and specific tasks to be done.
- Number of people who need medical help.
- Actions being taken to help those in distress.
- Number of members available to provide assistance, including those with specific skills.
- Assistance needed that is unavailable in the unit affected, including medicine, food, water, clothing, shelter, or fuel.

Getting started:

Invite 10 to 12 neighborhood families to a meeting and introduce the concept. Vote for a neighborhood unit leader and secretary.

The following business should be done at the initial meeting:

- Make a list of the possible emergencies the unit might face. Don't exclude the possibility of earthquake or war.
- Make a list of the resources of that unit that could be utilized. Include tractors, trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles and those people capable of driving them. List people trained in first aid, civil defense, search and rescue, construction, and any other skills that might need to be used in an emergency.
- If possible, check basements for possible use as fallout shelters (see www.tacda.org/resources/ptw/PriorityActions-5.html), and encourage neighbors to consolidate their resources.
- If possible, make a list of each family's blood types, special medical needs, next of kin, personal physician, place of work, and a friend or family member out of state that could be reached in an emergency. Have the chairman or secretary keep this list in a safe place such as in a labeled vile in his or her refrigerator or freezer.
- During this and future meetings, the unit leader should make assignments to individuals who would best meet the needs of that neighborhood.
- Assign a couple to be ready to do a damage and injury survey. If possible this couple should have access to a walkie-talkie so this information could be immediately reported to civil authorities.
- List all children going to the same school. Write a request that, in an emergency, these children be released from school

to a preassigned person from your neighborhood. Assign a person to this responsibility who is well known to the children and is usually at home. Include all the parent's signatures and give this list to the school principal to keep on file. In case some parents are unable to get home or are otherwise detained, this will assure that their children will be gathered and cared for until their return. Ask the schools to keep this list on file as well as on computer, as they may not have access to the computer in some kinds of emergencies.

- Assign someone to store materials on hand to make a temporary outside toilet for their unit in case the sewers break. Have them also keep water purification chemicals available.
- Assign someone to make up a menu for several days of mass community cooking for the unit, preferably using items that would be naturally rotated in most homes. Have this person assign neighbors to keep different ingredients for these menus on hand at all times.
- Assign individuals for care of preschool and elementary age children of the unit in case their parents are injured or have other assignments in the community. Use older children to help.
- Suggest that people choose an outside gathering place for their family in case their home is damaged. Have each family decide on a place to put a note-keeping box, so members of the family and unit can leave communications for one another. This information would be necessary to keep someone from entering a dangerously damaged home in search of people who have already left the area.
- Encourage families to each buy an inexpensive walkie-talkie.

Emergency chairman:

If you are able to organize several neighborhoods, choose a group emergency chairman. The emergency chairman should map the area and divide it into units of 10 to 12 families living in close proximity to one another. Families with special needs such as illness, elderly people, widows, etc. may need to be placed with more capable units. Use natural boundaries such as voting districts, school boundaries, or church parishes

where large numbers of people already know one another and work well together. This would be a great project for the school's PTA or as an Eagle Scout project.

Ask local ham radio operators to help with communication plans. In an emergency, they can receive valuable information that could then be sent to your people through your CB radios or walkie-talkies.

Regular meetings:

The units should meet together as often as they feel necessary. Once every four months should be adequate after the initial planning stage. Include children in discussions and decisions where possible.

Try to keep a positive and happy outlook with the kids, and don't frighten them. This would be a good time to talk about updating 72-hour kits, reviewing evacuation plans, and encouraging members to have fire and earthquake drills.

Training:

Train as many people from the area neighborhoods as possible in CPR, first aid and basic civil defense (sheltering, fallout meters, evacuation, etc.). Use instructors from your community's Civil Defense Department, American Red Cross, and area schools. Train a team in a 50-hour advanced first aid course. (We trained and certified 80 people in advanced first aid for an area of about 5,000 individuals.) Choose people who have a natural interest in first aid, but not professional medical personnel who would be required to work on a state level.

[Sharon Packer currently serves on TACDA's board of directors and holds the office of TACDA Vice-President. She is also co-founder of Utah Shelter Systems, and has extensive experience in organizing communities and their disaster preparedness and response efforts.]

Notice of Upcoming TACDA Conference

Dear TACDA Member,

This is just a brief notice to inform you of our up-coming TACDA annual conference, scheduled for the Summer of 2004.

Although, we are still working out the details and lining up this year's panel of speakers and participants, we wanted to let you know that we are definitely planning a 2004 seminar.

Once again, we will be planning the 2004 meetings in conjunction with the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness (DDP) conference, as we have done in the past.

This series of upcoming meetings and events is scheduled to be held in San Diego, California. As stated above, we do not yet have all of the details worked out, however, we will be notifying our members via the monthly Journal of Civil Defense, as well as through the TACDA web site

(www.tacda.org) and weekly electronic newsletter (CDHLSW).

If you have any questions concerning this conference, please do not hesitate to contact TACDA at any time to speak with a representative. We will be glad to provide the appropriate scheduling and registration information just as soon as it is available.

We will be looking forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your continued support of The American Civil Defense Association (TACDA).

Kindest Regards,

Kathy Eiland
Executive Director

International Joint Operations & Command Conference
Northern Ireland Brigade Training Centre, Belfast
12th - 13th November 2003



IJOCC

**International Joint Operations
Command Conference 2003**

Belfast 12th - 13th November

The landmark global terrorism conference - International Joint Operations Command Conference 2003 - will bring together emergency agencies to develop the best practice in responding to major incidents such as terrorist attacks.

The conference will use actual incidents as case studies, such as urban search and rescue operations at the Pentagon and lessons learned from the SARS outbreak in Toronto, to set the agenda for improving operational response in multi-agency co-operation.

Hosted by Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, the event brings together leading international experts from police, fire and ambulance in dealing with chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents.

IJOCC 2003 is your opportunity to meet the experts, discover how they have dealt with the world's worst catastrophes and produce a roadmap to improve multi-agency coordination and improve community protection.

For more information, contact Michelle Plumb via phone at 01737-855-424, or via email at michelleplumb@uk.dmgworldmedia.com.

This unique event will see the world's leading experts discuss their knowledge on every conceivable disaster incident, aiming to improve response throughout the world.

For the full conference program & speakers, please visit www.ijocc.com/.