Institute for Materials Science

UNCLASSIFIED

IMS Summer School: Science Capabilities at LANL

John C. Hopkins
Former LANL Associate Director

REPEAT - DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

The Role of Nuclear Weapons in Ending World War II

Tuesday, July 12, 2016
3:00 PM
MSL Auditorium (TA-03 - Bldg 1698 - Room A103)

The IMS Summer School focuses on Science Capabilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory and is designed to expose our visitors to the broad range of great science performed at the Lab. Through the course of **seven talks** and **four site visits**, students will have a unique opportunity to learn about LANL directly from our top scientists and participate in facility tours.

Abstract: Since the end of World War II there has been considerable debate and soul searching as to whether the atom bombs were necessary to end World War II with the least amount of bloodshed. Creative historical revisionism and conspiracy theories argue that the nuclear strikes on Japan were totally unnecessary. I review the events leading up to the nuclear strikes and the reaction of the Japanese leadership immediately afterward to make the case that the original explanation is the most credible. The purpose of the strikes was to end World War II in the least inhumane way.

Bio: John C. Hopkins is a nuclear physicist with a 1960 Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle. He retired in December 1993, after 34 years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The first third of his career was spent in nuclear physics research that resulted in over 40 technical publications and election to fellowship in the American Physical Society. The second third was spent in nuclear weapons testing, mostly as the J-Division Leader. The final third was spent as the leader of nuclear weapons development and finally as Associate Director responsible for the entire nuclear weapons program at Los Alamos. Throughout most of this period Hopkins was involved in national security policy issues and was leader of the Center for National Security Studies at Los Alamos. Just prior to retirement he was a visiting scholar at the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation where he edited a 1994 book on the nuclear policies of Britain, France, and China. Hopkins participated in a National Research Council panel examining the future of deterrence. The resulting study was published in 1997 by The National Academy Press with the title Post-Cold War Conflict Deterrence. Hopkins is coauthor (with Barbara Germain Killian) of a comprehensive history of the first decade of nuclear testing in Nevada. For over 40 years Hopkins has served on governmental and international boards and panels and is a former member of the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) Executive Panel for the United States Navy. He served on senior review committees for the Los Alamos National Laboratory and has been a technical advisor to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in Washington and in Geneva. Hopkins has worked closely with the State, Energy, and Defense Departments and has participated in numerous special programs for the U.S. Government.

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