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EXPLODING WIRE SHOCK TEST FACILITY

CUSHING ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED

PREPARED FOR OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

15 APRIL 1976



EXPLODING WIRE SHOCK TEST FACILITY

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FINAL REPORT

Prepared By

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Cushing Engineering, Incorporated

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Office of Naval Research (Contract No. ND0914-73-C-0402)

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INTRODUCTION

The Cushing Engineering Company Shock Test Facility has recently been assembled and demonstrated at Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, P.C. for the purpose of investigating and testing underwater explosion phenomena from a pure energy yield explosion source. In conjunction with these experiments, Underwater Research Systems, Inc., of San Mateo, California has developed formulas to accurately scale the data results from these tests to approximate large nuclear explosions. The attendant instrumentation for this facility, presently available, allows for the study of gas bubble dynamics, surface wave and shoch wave propagation, rarefaction shock wave generated cavitation and column formation.

The purpose of this document is to describe the aforementioned test facility equipment in regard to its construction, alignment and operational sequence.

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I. EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION

A. Schlieren Optical System

The Schlieren System is an optical technique that detects density gradients occurring in fluics. The deflection of collimated light rays from its undisturbed path when it passes through a medium can be photographed in a Schlieren System when there is a component of the gradient of refractive index of the medium perpendicular to the rays.

The Schlieren Optical System in this test facility consists of a monochromatic approximate point light source, two pin hole knife edges, a small silvered-front surface mirror, two 80" focal length 9-1/2" diameter parabolic mirrors, two optical flat glass portholes, and a thin film beam splitter. Figure 1 shows this arrangement of the Schlieren System components.

The light manufactured by PEK, Inc., Type 107-1155, 17 volts, 5.8 amp, is a monochromatic mercury vapor arc lamp powered by equipment developed at AEROLAB Supply Company of Hyattsville, Maryland. The lamp has a relatively short life, which is dependent upon the operating current. A suitable operating current is 5.5 amps.

To obtain the approximate point light source, it is necessary to focus the light rays from the mercury arc lamp through the converging lens with a focal length of approximately 6-1/2 inches. A pin hole is positioned at the focal length to this lens. These light raws are then reflected from a small front surface mirror to the first parabolic mirror which, in turn, directs the diverging light rays to a parallel orientation. The rays then pass through the test tank with the optical flat glass portholes to the second parabolic mirror, which acts to divert the parallel beam to a converging one. A thin film ream splitter is then used to allow photographic observation of one light beam by two high speed cameras. The pinhole knife edges are positioned at the focal point and normal to both the converging light heams. In effect, the pin holes eliminate all spurious light rays and allow for sharp focusing of the image beire photographed.

B. Dynafax Drum Camera

The manufacturing rights for this high speed camera have been purchased by Red Lake Laborateries of Santa Clara, Collifornia. However, information and repair can be accomplished by the Cordin Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. This camera is capable of Framing rates of up to 25,000 pictures per second.

The film, Kedak Tri-X Pan TX 402, 35cm has to be out to a length of S4 inches and installed in the Dynafax Film Cassette in a durk room. Then the cassette is installed in the camera and the film places on the drum. The drum is adjusted to rotate at 7500 RPM for a proper framing rate of 25,000 pps.

A magnetic pick-up in the camera generates a signal pulse for each rpm. This output signal is contrared on a Nouston Electronic Counter for accurate framing rate data. One revolution of the camera drum will deposit 224 frames on the film. The camera also has an internal light source which can be pulsed by a signal generator at a known frequency to put correct light tracks on the film to manitor camera framing rate.



FIGURE 1A

TEST FACILITY LAYOUT DATA

d, ≈ 8'-9' Distance from porthole to parabolic mirrors Reference position of probe in the test tank is varied various according to data required Reference position of probe in the test tank is varied various d_ ~according to data required d, 🕱 6' Diameter of tank Distance from parabolic mirror to small front surface mirror 774 d₅ ⋦ d₆≈ 1# Distance from edge of collimated light beam to edge of small front surface mirror d_ \$ 6.5* Focal length of lens from point light source d₈+d₅ = 60" Focal length of parabolic mirrors d_g ⇔ 6" Distance from Dynafax pinhole to beam splitter Also from HYCAN pinhole to beam splitter d₁₀≈ 8" Distance from HYCAN lens to beam splitter d11+dg= 80" Focal length of parabolic mirror

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Attached to the camera is a Seikosha Shutter, Model No. SLV. During operation, the camera drum rotates at constant speed and a shutter allows exposure of the film for only one revolution of the dreates prevent double exposure. This shutter is remotely tripped by a Tektronix Shutter Actuator, which is energized by the sequencing/firing circuit. When properly adjusted and the shutter speed set at an exposure time of 1/125 sec., approximately 200 pictures will be deposited on the film in one revolution of the drum camera, thereby giving a framing rate of 25,000 pps.

The attached lens on this camera is a Cosmicar Television Lens, Model No. 14244, adjusted to f/1.4 and focal distance at infinity.

C. Red Lake Camera (Hycam)

The Hycan camera is manufactured by Red Lake Lab of Santa Clara, Califormia. It is capable of framing rates from 1 to 3,000 pps, and is regulated by a servo motor controlled power supply. The framing rate of this camera is monitored by a Millimite (TLG-4) flash unit which places photo light tracks on the film margin at a known frequency. This attachment is also manufactured by Red Lake Lab. The lens attached to this camera is also a Cosmicar Television Lens No. 19020 adjusted to f/2.0 and a focal distance at infinity.

D. Charging System

The charging system is comprised of a 30 kilowatt power supply and a 15 microfarads -20 kilovolt capacitor, capacitor voltmater, capacitor discharge machanism, exploding wire probe, and a series of safety protection solenoids. The basic circuit is shown in Figure 2. The power supply charges the capacitor to the desired voltage through a one megoha resistor. The capacitor voltage is measured by a voltmeter which is wired in parallel with the capacitor. A 400 megoha resistor protects the voltanter from high current.

The are discharge mechanism is fabricated of two brass hemispheres separated by a space approximately one and one-half times that required for 19KV to are across. Between the brass hemispheres is a hollow glass rod of a high percentage silicone composition. In the center of the rod is a bare wire conductor, which when pulsed with a 2KV charge from the explosion sequence circuit, breaks down the air space between the brass hemispheres. This action causes the capacitor voltage to discharge across the exploding wire probe. The 2KV charge from the ECC unit travels out both ends of the glass rod along its outer surface and arcs in a uniform field to the brass hemispheres as shown in Figure 3.

The exploding wire probe is shown in a sectional assembly drawing, Figure 4. The exploding wire is a #40 (.003" diameter) nichrome wire filament which is attached to the probe tips by contact welding. When the capacitor voltage is damped, the charge is conducted to the probe wire filament which instantly vaporizes resulting in an explosion. The energy from the bruss bemispheres is conducted to the wire filament on a special wire selected for proper capacitance between the inside and outside conductors. The wire is nanufactured by Amphenol No. 621-106 59/U Triak Type.







E. Sequencing/Firing System

The sequencing and firing system is necessary to allow adequate explosion time delay for the relatively slow time constant of the Seikosha Shutter. The time delay schematic is shown in Figure 5.

During test operation, should a problem occur, the enorgy of the capacitor can be discharged into a one megohm resistor by placing "charge-discharge" switch on power supply to "discharge."

With the capacitor fully charged and the Dynafax camera operating at the desired rpm, the Hycam is started. After the Hycam accelerates to constant speed, a microswitch is automatically closed. This switch closure trips the Tektronix Shutter Actuator which simultaneously actuates a solenoid to fire the Seikosha shutter and provides an input signal to the Rutherford Electronics digital time-delay generator. The Rutherford delays the input signal as required and delivers a gate output signal to the EGG microflash unit which dumps an electrolitic capacitor 2KV charge to the wire located in the glass rod shown in Figure 3.

The schematic in Figure 5 gives an overview of the entire electronic circuit for charging/discharging and sequencing/firing.

F. Additional Equipment

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Supplemental equipment available for this test facility includes the following:

1. Two surface wave gauges developed by Cushing Engineering are used to monitor surface wave propagation. These gauges consist of two rods containing the primary and secondary windings, and the bare ground rod. The primary and secondary windings are comprised of two wires of different diameters wrapped around a metal rod and potted with an epoxy resin. After the epoxy has set, the outer cating of the (secondary) larger diameter is removed to allow contact with the water. Via the electronics, the primary induces a voltage in the secondary. The voltage measured between the ground rod and the bottom of the secondary is constant over the length of the windings. Thus, the output voltage measured is propertioned to the impersion of the secondary into the water. If totally immersed, the wave gauge output voltage would equal one-half of the total secondary voltage. The resolution of this instrument is dependent on the wire diamater of the secondary uindings, which in this case is less than .18 of full scale. The base means of measuring the output of the wave gauge electronics is to use a high frequency charr recorder with heat sensitive paper.

2. A 16mm Boles camera is also available to allow observation of the vator surface conditions during each text shot.

J. Piezoelestric pressure transducers are available to measure shock wave pressure data. These transducers essentially convert accustic unergy into electric energy of the same frequency which can then be menitored on an escillascop. The transducers available with this facility were manufactured by Atlantic Research, Inc.



- 4. A Stokes HIVAC vacuum pump is attached to the test tank to allow varying of the pressure over the water from atmospheric to 1 or 2 psi.
- 5. An essential piece of equipment for this test facility is the water filter system. This filter system performs two major functions: it cleans the water to a high optical purity to increase the photographic quality of the test medium, and then it keeps the fluid in constant motion to prevent thermal stratification of water which would cause improper defraction of light beams.
- 6. A Tektronix storage oscilloscope Type 549 is available. An oscilloscope with a display storage memory is not only used to adjust the firing mechanism delay but also used to display output of piezoelectric transducers for subsequent photographing by an oscilloscope camera.

Of the above mentioned items, the only equipment not available is a high speed chart recorder.

While the previous section gave a general description of the equipment used for this test facility, the following portion will elaborate on the alignment and sequencing aspect of the test operation.

II. ALIGNMENT AND SEQUENCE

A. Optical System Alignment

The positioning of the test tank is of major importance. To allow for case in aligning the Schlieren Optical System, it is necessary to place the tank so that the centers of the portholes lie in a level plane. The nuts securing the optical flat glass portholes are to be evenly adjusted hand-tight.

The 9-1/2" diameter parabolic mirrors are then placed on either side of the tank as shown in Figure 1, approximately 8 feet from the glass portholes. The centers of both the parabolic mirrors and the portholes should lie in a straigh: Line. This fact can be established by using a transit to indicate the center of the porthole (as scribed or the plexiglass porthole covers) and swinging the transit in a level plane to the scribed center on the cover of the parabolic mirror. It is then necessary to adjust the feet on the mirror stand to obtain the proper position. This adjustment must be performed for both parabolic mirrors. When this alignment has been completed, the light source is moved into position as shown in Figure 1. The small front surface mirror should be located approximately 77 inches from the parabolic mirror and 1 inch cutside of the collimated loam diameter. With the lamp turned on, the pinhole is adjusted at the focal length of the point light source lens distance d. as shown in Figure 1 (approximately 6.5 inches). The proper placement of this pinhole should reput in a sharp image of the lamp filament on the plate containing the pinhole. Next, the transit is positioned to indicate a level plane between the center of the first parabolic mirror and the porthole of the tank. The transit is then sound in that reference plane to the light source pinhole. and the feat of the light source stand adjusted to place the pinhole in the same reference plane.

With the lamp turned on, the small front surface mirror is adjusted to cast a diverging beam concentric with the outside diameter of the parabolic mirror housing. After opening the covers on both parabolic mirrors, the #1 porthole cover can be installed.

It is imperative to adjust the tilt and rotation of the first parabolic mirror so that the collimated beam is concentric with the scribed circle on the #1 porthole cover. If the beam diameter at the #1 porthole cover is larger or smaller than the scribed circle, the point light source is not at the focal length of the parabolic mirror and an adjustment is essential. When the Schlieren System is properly adjusted, a reference object placed in the collimated beam should cast an exact size image on the cover of the second parabolic mirror. It is necessary to remove the porthole covers to prevent distorted images from occurring,

Once the collimated beam has been established, the #1 porthole cover can be removed and the #2 cover installed. Again, the diameter of the beam should be concentric with and the same size as the scribed reference diameter on the porthole cover. Following this procedure, both porthole covers can be removed and the tilt of the second parabolic mirror adjusted to a level position. It is necessary to rotate the mirror to allow the Dynafax camera to be adjacent to the collimated beam with the pinhole at the focal length 80 inches from the mirror. The beam splitter is installed at a distance d11 from the second parabolic mirror approximately 45° to the converging beam. The height of both the Dynafax and the Hycam is adjusted so as to align the optics of each camera with the reference plane previously established by the transit.

B. Dynafax Camera Alignment

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To position the Dynafax Camera properly, it is necessary to manually open the Seikosha Shutter and the Dynafax camera shutter. The pinhole behind the Seikosha shutter is then manually adjusted to the focal point of the second parabolic mirror. The optical selector lever on the Dynafax must be adjusted to allow the incoming light beam to be observed externally from the viewing port on top of the Dynafax. The camera and pinhole must be adjusted to center the incoming beam on the cross-hair of the viewing port lens. when aligned properly and the selector positioned to allow the incoming light beam to pass through the camera lens, an image can be observed on the inside diameter of the drum as viewed by removing the front cover at the base of the Dynafax. This image should be clear, circular, and approximately 3/8 inches in diameter.

C. Hycam Alignment

It is necessary to position the Hycam at the distance d₁₀ as shown in Figure 1. The incoming beam is viewed from the external viewing port in the back of the Hycam, and the camera is then adjusted to obtain a sharp, round image large enough in diameter to fill the entire frame. The pinhole is placed at the focal point of the converging beam on the Hycam stand.

The positioning of the exploding wire probe, wave height gauges, and peicoelectric pressure transducer is determined by the particular tests being performed.

D. Firing Sequence Adjuctment

The firing sequence and required time delay are monitored by using the storage oscilloscope. The mechanical time constants of the Tektronix Shutter Actuator and Seikosha Shutter are ascertained by making use of a photo diode positioned in a light box behind the Seikosha Shutter.

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Another signal can be added to the scope display as shown in Figure 5 to indicate the explosion trip time (See Figure 6B for typical output signature). Time, T_0 is the time of the initial input to the shutter actuator and to the scope trigger.

The upper trace in Figure 6B shows the time constant of the shutter actuator and shutter exposure time indicated by the step function output of the photo diode. The lower trace indicates the negative pulse signalling the explosion time. The delay time of the Rutherford gate output can be varied by adjusting the time delay switches on the Rutherford to allow sufficient time for the initial explosion to occur just as the shutter is opening.

III. OPERATIONAL SEQUENCE

This section describes the operational sequencial information necessary to perform the exploding wire test with the aforementioned equipment.

A. Initial Preparation

The initial preparation includes a cleansing of the optical mirrors and longes as well as a water wash down of the tank and filter system. The tank is then filled to the desired level, and diatomacious earth filter powder is added to the filter tank through the trap basket adjacent to the pump. The water is then filtere', as required, to obtain a clear, clean fluid for photographing the explosion. The pump and filter system should be operated centinuously during "testing" to prevent the formation of thermal stratification of the water. The filter will require periodic cleaning and flushing of the cloth screens, and reneval of the diatomacious earth. The flushing of the filtor is required whenever the tank pressure reads greater than 20 psi.





B. Exploding Wire Probe Preparation

The exploding wire probes are now prepared. An assembly drawing of the probe is shown in Figure 4. The exploding wire filament (#40 nichrome wire) is attached to the leads of the probe by contact welding. The leads should be adjusted to a gap of approximately 1/8 inch. After the filament is welded in place, the resistance of the probe is measured and should be 1 to 2 ohms. Once the filament has been successfully welded, the entire probe is dipped in an acrylic lacquer to insulate the probe filament from the water when it is submerged in the tank. Following this, the probe can be installed in the tank at a desired location. The wave height gauges are positioned and the inside surface of the glass portholes are cleaned. To verify that the probe filament is still intact, the resistance across the brass hemispheres of the trip mechanism is measured. It should be less than 3 ohms.

C. Verify Optical and Electronic Systems

The electrical system must be connected properly as shown in Figure 5. The mercury arc lamp can be turned on and the current set to 5.5 amps. With both parabolic mirror covers opened, the plexiglass porthole covers can then be removed. To verify that the optical system is aligned properly, the light beam must pass through the pinholes of both the Dynafax and Hycam cameras.

With the master firing switch in the "off" position, it is necessary to turn all AC power to the "on" position for the following equipment: oscilloscope, Hycam, Tektronix Shutter Actuator, Rutherford, EGG Microflash, photo diode power supply, Houston Counter, Wave Height Gauges, Redlake Millimite and the capacitor power supply with "charge-discharge" switch in the latter position. The oscilloscope triggering mechanism should be adjusted as follows: mode-trig; slope-neg.; coupling-D.C.; source-Ext. The sweep time of the scope should be 5 milsec/cm, photo diode preamp = 5 volts per/cm (D.C.) and the EGG photo-flash trip preamp 10 volts/cm (D.C.).

The firing sequence can be tested by cocking the shutter and tripping the shutter actuator and the EGG trip mechanism by manually closing the back of the Hycam. With no film in the camera, the camera back plate actuates the relay switch which is set to close after the Hycam has accelerated to constant speed during the normal operation. The storage scope display should appear similar to the signatures shown in Figure 68. After several tests, it should be verified that the shutter actuator time constant and exposure time are repeatable. The time delay on the Nutherford should be regulated so that the EGG trip pulse is occurring at the same point in time correspondent to the opening of the shutter as shown in Figure 68.

D. <u>Step-By-Step Piping Procedure</u>

This section lists the step-by-step procedures to be taken for a test explosion.

1. The film in loaded into both cameras and the back of the Hycan is closed.

- 2. The Seikosha Shutter on the Dynafax Camera is cocked. (The Dynafax shutter must be in the open position.)
- 3. The capacitor power supply switch is placed in the "charge" position; and the capacitor is charged to 15K volts then the power supply voltage is backed off to zero volts.
- 4. The Dynafax Camera is turned on, and the camera speed adjusted as required for desired framing rate as indicated by the RPM on the Houston Electronic Counter. (1 rev. = 224 frames); (1 rev. to be exposed in .008 sec. at a Seikosha Shutter setting of 1/125 sec.)
- 5. The Red Lake Millimite is turned to 1000 flashes/sec.
- 6. The Hycam power supply is adjusted to 3000 frames/sec.
- 7. All available data is recorded on a typical data sheet as shown in Figure 7.
- 8. The wave gauge chart recorder is turned to high speed.
- 9. The master firing switch is turned to the "on" position.

The above steps conclude one test shot. Immediately """ is the shot, the Dynafax camera and chart recorder are turned "c" is capacitor power supply switched to the "discharge" position. The A signant must be de-energized, and the film and data retrieved for analysis.

The information concerning the pressure transducers was not included for test description. These transducers can be connected to an oscilloscope and photographs taken of their signatures for a given test to record explosion yield by measuring shock wave maximum pressures.

IV. SUHMARY

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The preceding information is essential is conducting an underwater test explosion as exhibited in the shock test facility presently available at NRL, Washington, D.C. Also included in this operating manual are photographs of the facility and instructional diagrams which have been appropriately labelled. Questions concerning the operation of this test facility can be directed to Cushing Engineering, Inc., Northbrook, Illinois or the writer of this document.

FIGURE 7

TYPICAL DATA SHEET.

A.	Can	nera Data	
	1.	Framing Rate of Dynafax Camera	مراقت ورود مرود المرود المرود ومرود ومرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والمرود والم
	2.	Magnetic Pick Up in Pulses/Sec	
	3.	Writing lime (sec) of Dynafax	
	4.	Shutter Setting on Dynafax	-
	5.	Record Bolex Camera Framing Rate	
	6.	Record Red Lake Camera Framing Rate	
	7.	Red Lake Nini-Light Setting	
	8.	Red Lake Camera a. aperture b. focus setting	a .
			h
	9.	Dynafax Camera a. aperture b. focus setting	i -
			b.
	10.	Bolex Camera a. aperture b. focus setting	ġ.
			þ.
a	A	· •	
э,	Tan	ik batting and Dimensions	
	1.	Physical Dimensions	
		dimensional difference di	
		dy dia and dia	2
		ddd.	
		¢	Ø
		He for the second secon	
	2.	frote lla.	
	J.	height or depth of probe	
	1 2	Resistance of the before appulle souths	

	5.	Resistance of wire after acrylic coating	
	6.	Wire Diameter	
	7.	Wire Length	and a supervised of the supervised of the supervised from the supervised of the supervised of the supervised of
	8.	Wave Gauge Distances from Probe	
	9,	Water Temperature	والمحافظ والمح
	10.	Tank Pressure	
	11.	Distance from LCLO-1 to probe (pressure transducers)	
	12.	Distance from LC10-2 to probe (pressure transducers)	and a strain the formation of the strain the
C.	Dat	a Taken at Control Station	
	1.	Neasure Capacitance of LC10-1 (pressure transducers)	
	2.	Neasure Capacitance of LC10-2 (pressure transducers)	
	з.	Oscilloscope readings - Model Mo.	
		a. Sweep Rate	Second and the set of
		b. Volts/Div	
		c. Pre-Any No.	
		d. Trigger level	
	ų,	Time Delay for LCLO Triggering	
	5.	High Voltage Cable Resistance	
		High Voltage Cable Capacitance	
,	7.	Nigh Voltage Capacitor Voltage	
	Ûs	Sensitivity Setting and Water Level Setting	
		a. Nave Gauga No. 1	
÷.,		b. Nave Gauge No. 2	
•••	Ŝ.	Recorder Speed (for Nave Gauge Record)	
	19.	becorder Setting (volts/ta)	
	11.	Voltage on Discharge Capacitor	
		-	

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHIS













APPENDIX B

PERSONNEL RELATING TO SHOCK TEST EXPERIMENTATION IN WASHINGTON AREA

The following persons were contacted in an attempt to identify a user for the test facility presently located at Naval Research Lab, Washington, D.C.: (Responses were negative.)

Naval Ordnance Lab (New Hampshire Avenue) Mr. Robert M. Barash 301-394-2583

Naval Ship Engineering Center (Hyattsville) Code 6105G Hanley Ward 436-1982 Code 6153 John Conway 436-1248

Naval Ship Research and Development Center (Cardercck) Dr. W. Murray 227-1705 Dr. Short 227-1726

Underwater Explosion Research and Development Center (Norfolk Naval Shipyard)

Dr. E. Palmer 804-393-5098

APPENDIX C

LIST OF EQUIPMENT MANUALS AVAILABLE

1. EG&G 549 Microflash System, Number B-3114, 15 July, 1965.

2. Houston Instrument Corporation, Transistorized Timer Counter TC2A

3. Rutherford Electronics Company, Model All Digital Time Delay Generator

4. Tektronix Shutter Actuator, 1962.

6.

5. Tektronix Storage Oscilloscope Type 549, and others.

Red Lake (HYCAM) Millimite Flash and Dynafax Camera manuals are available at the Cordin Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, 801-487-1075 (Also Red Lake Lab, Santa Clara, California).

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