

Re: 100 megaton bombs atop Saturn V rockets

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.history/2004-07/1365.html>

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Date: 07/08/04

Date: Wed, 07 Jul 2004 21:35:43 -0500

BitBanger wrote:

>

> *What is it with this f*cking infatuation with nuclear bombs!!!*

>

They are basically a American Totem Object; their is absolutely no problem that can't be solved via a nuclear weapon or two.

Hurricane approaching? An H-bomb or so will take care of that. Asteroid threatening? We're ready. Need to excavate a reservoir inside of five minutes? Just push the red button. Things not going well in Vietnam? Well, if you had just taken MacArthur's advice back in Korea.... Martian War Machines threatening Los Angles? Okay....they may not work on everything.

Radiation is sort of like magic...you can't see the stuff, but it can help you....or croak you pronto.

At least no one ever did that idea I read about of putting nuclear isotopes into the concrete of highways so that the heat of nuclear decay would keep them warm and ice-free in winter. And the Atomic Powered Tank was also stillborn; which is a pity, as it probably wouldn't have even needed armor, due to the fact that no one in their right mind would dare shoot anything at it, for fear of what might happen if they actually hit it. :-)

> *Why do they*

> *keep wanting to blow up things when it has been shown many times before that*

> *this is the wrong kind of solution. In fact, it could make things even*

> *worse!*

>

Especially given the fact that at the time we knew hardly anything about what asteroids were made from or how solidly they were put together; so that trying this stunt might have resulted with a whole pile of subasteroids being generated from the fracturing of Icarus' into large pieces by the blasts, and the odds of one of those fragments hitting Earth actually increase the danger to us over time as their trajectories spread apart.

sci.space.history: Re: 100 megaton bombs atop Saturn V rockets

We discussed the effectiveness of nuclear weapons against asteroids here on sci.space.history a while back; they are a lot less impressive in space than they are in an atmosphere; you basically end up generating thrust against the asteroid by vaporizing its outer surface with their radiation flux. About the only way you could really damage a asteroid is get the bomb down near the core of the asteroid, and let the blast generate explosive gas pressure from the vaporized rock...and that would pretty much guarantee that you end up with a cloud of larger and smaller fragments.

About as smart as hitting a beehive with a baseball bat. ;~)

Pat