Poem

San Antonio Summer ’64

...there are approximately 16,300 nuclear weapons located in 14 countries.

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 2014

Rising on columns of fire, rockets launched to the moon – and I who’d wished to work with astronauts, am assigned instead to weigh SAC bomber crew immersed in water – measure “lean body mass,” wondered what difference a paunch on a pilot would make sitting in a B52.

Silent— eyes hidden behind red goggles, they swaggered in their muscled nakedness into my lab.

Dark-adapted to their cockpits, ready day or night, airborne at the President’s command – fly over the pole, drop hydrogen bombs – mutual assured destruction. MAD it was called.

Richard Bronson

Correspondence to Richard Bronson, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Stony Brook University Medical Center, New York 11794-8091, USA; Richard.Bronson@Stonybrookmedicine.edu

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

To cite Bronson R. Med Humit Published Online First: [please include Day Month Year] doi:10.1136/medhum-2016-011096

Med Humanit 2016;0:1. doi:10.1136/medhum-2016-011096
San Antonio Summer '64

Richard Bronson

*Med Humanities* published online September 28, 2016

Updated information and services can be found at:

http://mh.bmj.com/content/early/2016/09/28/medhum-2016-011096

**These include:**

**Email alerting service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:

http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:

http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/