DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RECEIVED BY UST: MAY 2 0

### TRENCH LOGS FROM A STRAND OF THE ROCK VALLEY FAULT SYSTEM, NEVADA TEST SITE, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

### By James C. Yount, Ralph R. Shroba, Catherine R. McMasters, Heather E. Huckins, and Eduardo A. Rodriguez

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

USGS/MAP/MF--1824

YOUNT AND OTHERS—TRENCH LOGS FROM A STRAND OF THE ROCK VALLEY FAULT SYSTEM, NEVADA TEST SITE, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA MAP MF-1824

TI87 009732

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MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES MAP Published by the U.S. Geological Survey, 1987



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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



SOUTH





## **ROCK VALLEY TRENCH 1**

EAST WALL



Pr' U.S.

# Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY





#### DESCRIPTION OF LITHOLOGIC UNITS EXPOSED IN

UNIT A--Very pale brown  $(10\underline{Y}\underline{R}7/3)$ , slightly compact, vesicular silt. Contains moderately sorted, subangular to subrounded sand, subangular pebbles and cobbles, and scarce boulders. Burrows an-Very scarce secondary carbonate that forms small veinlets and the Irregular basal contact. Open fractures commonly terminate at 1 although some (RV-2, E1S1, E6S1) continue downward into older to

UNIT B—(Exposed only in RV-2) Light-yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4 6/4), loose to slightly compact, poorly sorted, pebbly, sandy silt. massive; a poorly defined, north-dipping pebble line marks the top Faint eolian(?) ripple in E6S1. Contains common pebbles and cob boulders. Burrows and roots common. Occasional carbonate veir pebbles. Basal contact distinct and irregular.

UNIT C-Reddish-yellow (5YR 7/6), compact, poorly sorted, sligh silt to pebbly silty sand. Pebbles subangular to subrounded. Cobt scarce. Massive, although unit breaks along sub-horizontal plane structure. No burrows; roots scarce. Contact with underlying us and irregular. Minor carbonate laminae in lower part of unit. Ur the uranium-trend method as  $31,000\pm10,000$  to  $32,000\pm24,000$  yea  $36,000\pm20,000$  to  $38,000\pm10,000$  years old in RV-2 (J.N. Rosholt, u (table 4).

UNIT D—Light-gray (10YR 7/1), loose to indurated (carbonate ce (RV-2) to moderately sorted (RV-1), interbedded boulder-cobble  $\varepsilon$  sand. In RV-2 cobble beds have faint horizontal bedding (E2N2, I moderately to well developed in RV-1, with some crossbedding. 'to well cemented by carbonate and rare opaline(?) silica. Carbon fracture surfaces that are subparallel to shear zones (fig. 4) is co less common in RV-1. Long axes of cobbles and boulders dip stee (fig. 3) indicating southwestward transport directions. Contact w sharp and undulatory. Unit D has been dated in both RV-1 and R' trend method. In RV-1, the 3K soil horizon (RV-1R<sub>2</sub>, table 4) dat years old and the 3Bk/K soil horizon dates as 270,000±30,000 (RV years old (J.N. Rosholt, written commun., 1984) (307L, table 4). corresponds to unit Q2c of Hoover and others (1981); equivalents figure 2 as unit 2bc.

UNIT E--(Exposed only in RV-2) Reddish-yellow (7.5YR 7/6) to p indurated, poorly sorted, clayey, sandy, cobble gravel with scarce subrounded to subangular, matrix supported. Matrix is massive w fissility. East-northeast-dipping long axes of clasts (fig. 3) indice direction. Unit E most likely corresponds to unit QTa of Hoover 2).

#### INTRODUCTION

The Rock Valley fault system trends northeasterly through the Nevada Test Site (fig. 1). The system records left-lateral off Tertiary rocks (Hinrichs, 1968; Sargent and Stewart, 1971), althou to only a few kilometers (Barnes and others, 1982). Distinct scar Quaternary age (Carr, 1974) and a concentration of seismicity, pr end (Rogers and others, 1983), suggest that the Rock Valley fault Two trenches were excavated by backhoe in 1978 across a 0.5-ma strand of the Rock Valley fault system (fig. 2). Preliminary dat in Szabo and others (1981, fig. 9) and Ander and others (1984, Stoj of these initial descriptions and the above-mentioned seismicity, , two Rock Valley fault trenches was undertaken during the spring of presents: (1) logs of both walls of the two trenches, (2) a general ( lithologic units and the soils formed in these units that are excose trenches, (3) observations of the clast fabric of unfaulted and fau the trench walls, and (4) a map of the surficial deposits in the vici (fig. 2).

#### Procedures

The eastern of the two trenches (RV-2, fig. 2) was cleaned vand brushes in April 1984. The lower meter of the west wall had a approximately one-half meter since initial excavation. Both tren 1-m squares with polypropylene rope (see grid system in explanati Field sketches were made on graph paper at a scale of 4 in. to the scale 1:10). The western trench (RV-1, fig. 2) was more severely minor re-excavation by a small buildozer before closning and long





NORTH

### MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDI: MAP MF-18

#### **ITHOLOGIC UNITS EXPOSED IN TRENCHES**

7/3), slightly compact, vesicular, sandy to very sandy i, subangular to subrounded sand, a few angular to and scarce boulders. Burrows and small roots common. that forms small veinlets and thin coatings on pebbles. actures commonly terminate at the contact with unit B, continue downward into older units.

Light-yellowish-brown  $(10 \underline{Y} \underline{R} 6/4)$  to light-brown  $(7.5 \underline{Y} \underline{R} 6/4)$  to light-brown  $(7.5 \underline{Y} \underline{R} 6/4)$  sorted, pebbly, sandy silt. Bedding is mostly dipping pebble line marks the top of the unit in E6N1. iontains common pebbles and cobbles and scarce imon. Occasional carbonate veinlets and coating on and irregular.

/6), compact, poorly sorted, slightly clayey, pebbly sandy is subangular to subrounded. Cobbles and boulders reaks along sub-horizontal planes. Faint columnar arce. Contact with underlying unit gradational to sharp aminae in lower part of unit. Unit C has been dated by  $000\pm10,000$  to  $32,000\pm24,000$  years old in RV-1 and years old in RV-2 (J.N. Rosholt, written commun., 1984)

loose to indurated (carbonate cemented), poorly sorted -1), interbedded boulder-cobble gravel and cobbly pebbly faint horizontal bedding (E2N2, E3N2). Bedding is RV-1, with some crossbedding. Sandy matrix is weakly nd rare opaline(?) silica. Carbonate cementation along rallel to shear zones (fig. 4) is common in RV-2 and is of cobbles and boulders dip steeply to the northeast transport directions. Contact with underlying unit is s been dated in both RV-1 and RV-2 by the uraniumoil horizon (RV-1R<sub>2</sub>, table 4) dates as  $180,000\pm40,000$ zon dates as  $270,000\pm30,000$  (RV-1R<sub>3</sub>) to  $310,000\pm40,000$ 4Bkb soil horizon in RV-2 dates as  $390,000\pm100,000$ commun., 1984) (307L, table 4). Unit D most likely er and others (1981); equivalents of unit D are shown on

Reddish-yellow (7.5YR 7/6) to pink (7.5YR 8/4), sandy, cobble gravel with scarce boulders. Clasts c supported. Matrix is massive with a faint subhorizontal long axes of clasts (fig. 3) indicate westerly transport responds to unit QTa of Hoover and others (1981) (fig.

#### INTRODUCTION

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TABLE 2.--Selected grain-size data and calcium-carbonate content of soils in trench RV-2.<sup>1</sup>

Horizon		Percen	t	Texture <sup>3</sup>	Percent
	Sand	Silt	Clay <sup>2</sup>		Calcium Carbonate
Av	70.0	19.0	11.0	SL	2.4
28k 1 <sup>4</sup>	73.0	14.9	12.1	SL	1.3
28k2 <sup>4</sup>	66.1	21.4	12.5	SL	2.1
38tkbl	58.3	23.2	18.5	fiSL	1.0
3Bt kb2	68.7	22.3	9.0	SL	1.2
4Kqb	80.9	11.0	8.1	LcoS	19.9
4Bk/Kb	87.1	7.5	5.4	LcoS	8.4
4Bkb	91.0	5.4	3.6	coS	8.5
58tb	75.5	16.0	8.5	SL	1.9
5Kb	62.7	23.5	13.8	SL	25.0

<sup>1</sup>All analyses were performed on material less than 2 mm in size.

<sup>2</sup>Values for sand, silt, and clay are based on sieve and pipette analyses. Particle-size limits are: sand, 2 to 0.05 mm; silt, 0.05 to 0.002 mm; clay, less than 0.002 mm.

3 Taxtural

## MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES MAP MF-1824

#### OSED IN TRENCHES

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## EXPLANATION

GRID PATTERN USED FOR MAPPING WALLS OF TRENCHES RV-1 AND RV-2

#### EAST WALL

NORT	RTH							,	Center of wall (or~trace of main fault) SO							SOUTH							
E 12N 1	EIINI	E 10N 3	E9N1	E8N 1	E7N1	E6N1	E5N 1	E4N1	E3N1	E2N 1	E 1N 1	E151	E2S1	E3\$1	E4S1	E5S 1	E6S1	E7S1	E8S1	E9S1	E 105 1	E11S1	E 12S 1
E 12N2	E 1 1N2	E 10N2	E9N2	E8N2	E7N2	E6N2	E5N2	E4N2	E3N2	E2N2	E 1N2	E 152	E2S2	E3S2	E4S2	E5S2	E6S2	E7S2	E8S2	E952	E 1052	E11S2	E 1282
E 12N3	E 1 1N3	E 10N3	E9N3	E8N3	E7N3	E6N3	E5N3	E4N3	E3N3	E2N3	E 1N3	E1S3	E2S3	E3S3	E4S3	E5S3	E6S3	E7S3	E8S3	E9\$3	E 1053	E1153	E 1283
E 12N4	E 1 1N4	E10N4	E9N4	E8N4	Ę7N4	E6N4	E5N4	E4N4	E3N4	E2N4	E1N4	E1S4	E2\$4	E3S4	E4S4	E5S4	E6S4	E7S4	E8S4	E9S4	E 1054	E11S4	E 1254

W	'ES'	T	WALL	

SOUT	JTH					Center of wall (or~trace of main fault)								NORTH										
W 125 1	w1151	W 105 1	W9S1	W8S1	W7S1	W6S1	W5S1	W4S1	W3S1	W2S1	W1S1	W1N1	W2N1	W3N1	W4N1	W5N1	W6N 1	W7N1	W8N 1	W9N1	W 10N 1	W 1 1N 1	W 12N 1	
W 1282	W 1 1 5 2	W 1052	W952	W852	W7S2	W6S2	W5S2	W4S2	W352	W2S2	W 1S2	W 1N2	W2N2	W3N2	W4N2	W5N2	W6N2	W7N2	W8N2	W9N5	W 10N2	W 1 1N2	W 12N2	
W 1253	W 1 153	W 1053	w953	w8S3	w7S3	w653	W5S3	W4S3	W3S3	W2S3	W 183	W 1N3	W2N3	พอทว	W4N3	W5N3	W6N3	W7N3	WBN3	wэnз	W 10N3	W 1 1N3	W 12N3	
W 1254	W 1 1 S 4	W 1054	W9S4	W8S4	W7S4	W6S4	W5S4	W4S4	W3S4	W2S4	W 1S4	W 1N4	W2N4	W3N4	W4N4	W5N4	W6N4	W7N4	W8N4	W9N4	W 10N4	W 1 1N4	W 12N4	



OF

iain fa	ult)			SOUTH										
E6S 1	E7S1	E85 t	E951	E 10S 1	E11S1	E 12S 1								
E652	E7S2	E8S2	E9S2	E 1052	E11S2	E12S2								
E6S3	E7S3	E8S3	E9\$3	E 1053	E11S3	E 1283	,							
E684	E7S4	E8S4	E954	E1054	E11S4	E12S4								
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		••							

nain fe	ult)			•		NORTH
W6N1	W7N1	W8N1	WONT	W 10N 1	W 1 1N	W 12N 1
WGN2	W7N2	W8N2	W9N2	W 10N2	W 1 1N2	W 12N2
W6N3	W7N3	WBN3	W9N3	W 10N3	W 1 1N3	W 12N3
WBN4	W7N4	W8N4	W9N4	W 10N4	W 1 1N4	W 12N4

scale 1:10). The western trench (RV-1, fig. 2) was more start logging in  $\overline{n}$ , similar manner as for RV-2. Both trenches trend northwest-southeast; they the trench logs as north-south for simplicity.

Descriptions of bedding features and textures follow guidelines of Con and Folk (1968). The soil-horizon nomenclature and the procedures used to soils (tables 1 and 2) conform to those of Birkeland (1984). Because of scale only the most prominent burrows have been depicted, and minor cracks forshrinkage have not been shown. Clast fabrics were determined by measurin of the long axes (a axes) of clasts and orientation of the plane enclosing the intermediate axes (ab plane). Measurements were made in the field with a compass following procedures described by Karlstrom (1952). Fabric data ( analyzed by eigenvalue and eigenvector techniques, which yield mean azimi inclination, and cone of confidence estimates for directional data (Schuenei others, 1972).

#### Acknowledgments

We thank John Tinslev, Ed Helley, W C Swadlev, Will Carr, and Ernie their thoughtful comments and observations in the field. Suzanne Fouty ass description of RV-1. Bruce Rogers and Ed Helley assisted greatly in preparlogs. We thank John Downing of Pan Am for providing obtographic support Oxbourgh of REECO for arranging for re-excavation of the lower part of R<sup>1</sup> Swadlev, Malcolm Clark, and John Tinslev made valuable suggestions regarc logic.

#### NATURE AND AMOUNTS OF FAULT DISPLACEMENTS

Faulting is expressed by disruption of alluvial clast fabric (fig. 3) in ne zones 10 cm to 1 m wide; all such zones vertically separate some units and 1 Bedding within unit D is separated along thin (1-2 cm) shear zones in both w 1. Fractures, with no visible separation across them, are common in both tr trend approximately parallel to the major shear zones (fig. 4).

Amounts of vertical separation across the major shear zones in both to listed in Table 3. Total vertical separation of unit E from within RV-2 is 12 down to the north; however, the 5Kb soil horizon of unit E is exposed at the surface approximately 10 m south of the south end of the trench. Using this the top of unit E, the total vertical separation of unit E would be 257 to 295 the north. The base of unit C is separated less than 5 cm to as much as 25 c shear zone in RV-1 and less than 10 cm to as much as 32 cm along shear zon RV-2. The sense of separation is down to the north in both trenches.

The vesicular silt of unit A caps the shear zone in RV-1. Unit A and the sandy silt of unit B extend across shear zones I, IA, and II in the east wall of apparent thickening of unit B just south of shear zone I may represent infilling fault plane by colluvium. Unit A caps all shear zones in the west wall of RV is truncated by shear zones II and III. Colluvial material cuts down through shear zones I and IA, indicating some period of local dissection and backfilli deposition of unit B.

Open fractures extend over shear zones into unit A in RV-1 (W7N1) and and B in RV-2 (E1S1, E6S1, and possibly E9S1). With the possible exception of fracture in E6S1 of RV-2, no offset of these units can be demonstrated along fractures. The thinness of units A and B (10-30 cm total thickness) and the burrowing and cracking within these units make it doubtful that any record  $c_1$ disturbance would be recognizeable within them.

The poorly developed bedding and coarse-grained character of the experimake it difficult to assess the amount of strike-slip motion that may have te along shear zones. No slickensides, mullion structures, or gouge marks have observed along the surfaces bounding the zones of shear. The clast fabric wi zones II and IV (RV-2) is dominated by subhorizontal northwest-trending orie long axes; the fabric within shear zones I and IA is strongly vertical. One int of this difference in fabric orientation is that the slip direction for shear zor differed from the slip direction in shear zones II and IV. Continued excavations shear planes and detailed study of clast fabrics that developed where sense o known are required to further evaluate the direction and magnitude of obliquit recorded on this strand of the Rock Valley fault.

#### AGE OF FAULTING

Unit D, dated as  $180,000\pm40,000$  to  $390,000\pm100,000$  years old (table 4), shear zones transecting RV-1 and RV-2. Unit C, dated as  $31,000\pm10,000$  to 3 years old (table 4), is cut by the shear zone in RV-1 and shear zone I in RV-2. thin to the south of the shear zone in RV-1 (west wall) and exists only as resifragments lying above the 4Kqb soil horizon south of shear zone IA in RV-2. presumed that unit C has been stripped off the elevated (south) block after ft shear zones I and IA. Additionally, fragments of unit C, too small to be show are found within shear zone I in RV-2. These observations indicate that fault shear zone in RV-1 and shear zones I and IA in RV-2 took place sometime aft  $31,000\pm10,000$  to  $38,000\pm10,000$  years ago. The presence of clay-rich fragme in shear zone I requires that faulting took place after the development of an horizon in unit C. Because the uranium-trend technique dates the time of see (Rosholt, 1980), the 31,000 to 38,000-year date could be regarded as a maxim the most recent faulting on the shear zone in RV-1 and shear zones I and IA i

An episode of faulting that preceded the offset of unit C can be deduce act that the total verticed disclosement of the total of the context of the total verticed disclosement of the total of the context of as note severely croded and required cleaning and logging in May 1984, in a d northwest-southeast; they are shown on

res follow quidelines of Compton (1962) and the procedures used to describe the nd (1984). Because of scale limitations, etted, and minor cracks formed by soil re determined by measuring orientation a of the plane enclosing the long and re made in the field with a Brunton itrom (1952). Fabric data (fig. 3) were les, which yield mean azimuth, mean directional data (Schuenemeyer and

#### nents

Idley, Will Carr, and Ernie Anderson for ie field. Suzanne Fouty assisted in the *r* assisted greatly in preparation of the *r*/ding ohotographic support and Ned tion of the lower part of RV-1. W C valuable suggestions regarding form and

#### **VULT DISPLACEMENTS**

al clast fabric (fig. 3) in near-vertical y separate some units and bedding. cm) shear zones in both walls of RVem, are common in both trenches and ones (fig. 4).

Tajor shear zones in both trenches are t E from within RV-2 is 125 to 142 cm of unit E is exposed at the ground d of the trench. Using this elevation as unit E would be 257 to 295 cm down to an 5 cm to as much as 25 cm along the h as 32 cm along shear zones I and IA in th in both trenches.

one in RV-1. Unit A and the pebbly , and II in the east wall of RV-2. The one I may represent infilling along the nes in the west wall of RV-2, but unit B aterial cuts down through unit B along al dissection and backfilling following

unit A in RV-1 (W7N1) and into units A th the possible exception of the can be demonstrated along any of these 1 total thickness) and the abundance of doubtful that any record of tectonic

ined character of the exposed deposits p motion that may have taken place Ires, or gouge marks have been shear. The clast fabric within shear 11 northwest-trending orientations of strongly vertical. One interpretation ilio direction for shear zones I and IA id IV. Continued excavation along the t developed where sense of motion is in and magnitude of oblique-slip

#### ING

00,000 years old (table 4), is cut by all ted as 31,000±10,000 to 38,000±10,000 and shear zone I in RV-2. Unit C is all) and exists only as residual if shear zone IA in RV-2. It is ated (south) block after faulting along it C, too small to be shown on the log, vations indicate that faulting on the ? took place sometime after sence of clay-rich fragments of unit C er the development of an argillic B ilque dates the time of sedimentation d be regarded as a maximum date for and shear zones I and IA in RV-2.

t of unit C can be deduced from the

<sup>3</sup>Textural classes are based on grain-size analyses: co, coarse; fi, fine; LS, loamy sand; SL, sandy loam; S, sand.

energy to are a too

and the state of the

<sup>4</sup>Horizons 2Bk1 and 2Bk2 are not shown as seperate horizons on the trench logs for RV-2. They are shown as one horizon designated 2Bk.

TABLE 3.--Vertical separation of stratigraphic contacts and bedding elements across shear zones

Location	Shear Zone	Stratigraphic Contact or Bedding Element	Vertical Separation	Sense of Motion
		Trench RV-1		
East wall		Base unit C	25 cm	Down to north
West wall		Base unit C	< 5 cm	Down to north?
		Base pebbly sand within unit D	38 cm	Down to north
		Trench RV-2		
East wall	I	Base unit C	< 10 cm	Down to north
	I + IA	Base unit D	39 cm	Down to south
	II	Base unit D	22 cm	Down to north
	111	Base unit D	80 cm	Down to north
	V	Base unit D	At least 79 cm	Down to north
Tatal	V to unit E at ground surface 10 m south of south end of trench	Top unit E	153 cm	Nown to north
295 cr	n to bring unit E to	its ground-surface elev	vation south of t	rench.
West wall	I + IA	Base unit C	32 cm	Down to north
	I + IA + II	Base unit D	18 cm	Down to north
	III	Base unit D	89 cm	Down to north
	IV	Base unit D	18 cm	Down to north
	IV to unit E at ground surface 10 m south of south end of trench	Top unit E	132 cm	Down to north
Total 257 cr	vertical separation n to bring unit E to	of base of unit D, 125 its ground-surface elev	cm within trench; ation south of t	; rench.

#### TABLE 4.-- Uranium-trend ages from trenches RV-1 and RV-2

Sample	Lithologic	Grid	Age		
No.	Unit	Coordinate	(Years B.P.)		
	Tren	ch RV-1			
RV-1U	Unit C and unit D	W1S1	31,000±10,000 <sup>1,2</sup>		
RV-1L	Unit D	W1S1 - W1S2	310,000±80,000 <sup>1,2</sup>		
RV-1R1	Unit C	E 5N1	32,000±24,000 <sup>3</sup>		
RV-1R2	Unit D	E5N1	180,000±40,000 <sup>3</sup>		
RV-1R3	Unit D	E5N2	270,000±30,000 <sup>3</sup>		
	Tren	ch RV-2			
RV-2U	Unit C	E6N1	36,000±20,000 <sup>3</sup>		
3070	Unit C	E6N1	38,000±10,000 <sup>2</sup>		
307L	Unit D	E6N2	390,000±100,000 <sup>3</sup>		



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fact that the total vertical displacement of the base of unit C is 1 to 2.5 m less it total vertical offset of the top of unit E along the length of RV-2 (table 3). The a to preclude an early phase of faulting is to demonstrate an appreciable northerly the upper surface of unit E prior to faulting. Natural exposure of the upper contaunit E in the wash approximately 0.5 km east of RV-2 (see arrow, fig. 2) indicatethis contact is horizontal. Subsurface investigation with a sledge-hammer source refraction system demonstrated that the upper contact of unit E dips less than 5<sup>10</sup> area 100 to 500 m north of the north end of RV-2. Therefore, it is inferred that t upper contact of unit E exposed in RV-2 was nearly horizontal before faulting.

Further support for multiple movement on shear zones I and IA comes from difference in sense of motion required along those zones to explain the position of C and E. Unit E is displaced up to the north across shear zones I and IA. Possibly shear zones behaved antithetically during faulting on shear zones II through V, downdrooping a small block of unit E between shear zones IA and II. Unit C, on th hand, is down to the north across shear zone I. If motions are dominantly dip slip only a second period of faulting, restricted to shear zones I and IA, could explain " reversal of movement sense. A simpler explanation, not necessarily requiring mul periods of faulting, would be that significant strike-slip displacement has taken pl this strand of the Rock Valley fault. An evaluation of the amount of strike-slip displacement will require continued excavation along the fault planes exposed in t trenches.

No clasts of unit E matrix or wedges of unit E material appear near the base D in the vicinity of the shear zones that cut both unit D and unit E. Hence, an ea period of faulting may postdate the deposition of unit D, rather than being contine active during the deposition of unit D. All shear zones in RV-2 appear to cut the soil horizon at the top of unit D. Assuming this horizon to be equivalent to the da soil horizon in RV-1 (RV-1R<sub>2</sub>, table 4), this indicates that some faulting postdates 180,000 years.

Units A and B have not been dated. They are younger than the 31,000- to 3E year-old unit C, which underlies them. Owing to the equivocal evidence for faulti within units A and B and the uncertainty about their age, no constraining date you than 31,000 to 38,000 years can be assigned to faulting along any shear zones in R RV-2.

In summary, deposition of unit D on an irregular, but nearly horizontal surfaunit E was followed by a total of 1.4 to 2.9 m of vertical separation along five she zones in RV-2 sometime after 180,000 years ago. The sense of separation was dow the north on shear zones II through V, while approximately 50 cm of antithetic sep that was down to the south took place on shear zones I and IA. Deposition of unit followed by a second episode of faulting that produced 10 to 32 cm of vertical sep along shear zones I and IA sometime after 31,000 to 38,000 years ago. The sense a the offset of unit C found in RV-2. It appears that only the younger period of fault recorded in RV-2 was responsible for the deformation observed in RV-1.

#### TABLE 1. -- Field descr

[Most of the soils data were collected in the east and west walls of tre to describe the various soil properties are those recommended by Birkela observed]

		~			Danaaat
unit	Horizon	(cm)	Co dry	moist	larger 4 mm
A	Av	10-15	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20
В	2Bk1		7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	35
В	2Bk 2	10-35	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7 <u>,5YR</u> 5/4	15
С	3Btkbl	20-30	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20
С	3Btkb2	20-25	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5YR 5/4	20
D	4Kqb	30-40	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/2	7.5 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30
D	4Bk/Kb	25-35	7.5YR 8/2	10YR 6/4	30

In the top of unit 1, along the length of BO = C (table b). The only way shase of faulting is to demonstrate an appreciable northerly dip to unit E prior to faulting. Natural exposure of the upper contact of proximately 0.5 km east of RV-2 (see arrow, fig. 2) indicates that ntal. Subsurface investigation with a sledge-hammer source seismic nonstrated that the upper contact of unit E dips less than 5° in the "th of the north end of RV-2. Therefore, it is inferred that the E exposed in RV-2 was nearly horizontal before faulting.

for multiple movement on shear zones I and IA comes from the motion required along those zones to explain the position of units placed up to the north across shear zones I and IA. Possibly these mithetically during faulting on shear zones II through V, block of unit E between shear zones IA and II. Unit C, on the other orth across shear zone I. If motions are dominantly dip slip then if faulting, restricted to shear zones I and IA, could explain this sense. A simpler explanation, not necessarily requiring multiple buld be that significant strike-slip displacement has taken place on k Valley fault. An evaluation of the amount of strike-slip lire continued excavation along the fault planes exposed in both

. R matrix or wedges of unit E material appear near the base of unit e shear zones that cut both unit D and unit E. Hence, an early  $\gamma$  postdate the deposition of unit D, rather than being continually sition of unit D. All shear zones in RV-2 appear to cut the 4Kqb of unit D. Assuming this horizon to be equivalent to the dated 3K  $V-1R_{2}$ , table 4), this indicates that some faulting postdates

we not been dated. They are younger than the 31,000- to 38,000underlies them. Owing to the equivocal evidence for faulting nd the uncertainty about their age, no constraining date younger vears can be assigned to faulting along any shear zones in RV-1 or

osition of unit D on an irregular, but nearly horizontal surface of ' a total of 1.4 to 2.9 m of vertical separation along five shear te after 180,000 years ago. The sense of separation was down to es II through V, while approximately 50 cm of antithetic separation buth took place on shear zones I and IA. Deposition of unit C was pisode of faulting that produced 10 to 32 cm of vertical separation I A sometime after 31,000 to 38,000 years ago. The sense of te north. Offset of unit C in RV-1 is similar in amount and sense to und in RV-2. It appears that only the younger period of faulting responsible for the deformation observed in RV-1. <sup>2</sup> From Ander and others (1984)

<sup>3</sup> J.N. Rosholt (written commun., 1984)

TABLE 1. -- Field description of soils in trench RV-2 ata were collected in the east and west walls of trench RV-2 north of the vertical grid line 00. The procedures and criteria used ous soil properties are those recommended by Birkeland (1984). The soils in RV-1 were examined, but were not described; no, none

1	Thickness <sup>2</sup> (cm)	Co dry	lor <sup>3</sup> moist	Percentage <sup>4</sup> larger than 4_mm	Texture <sup>5</sup>	Structure <sup>6</sup>	Clay films <sup>7</sup>	Secondary c stage	arbonate <sup>8</sup> dominant norphology	Effer	vescence <sup>9</sup>
	10-15	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	L	m, vl vf-m sbk	no	0	по		str
	10.25	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	35	L	m, vl vf-m sbk	no	I	ncc		str
	10-35	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7. <u>5YR_5</u> /4	15	SL	m, vl vf-m sbk	no	I	ncc .		str
	20-30	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SCL	2 f-c abk	2 n-mk br gc pf	I	f		s1
	20-25	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SL	m, 1 vf-m abk	l-2 n-mk br gc pf	I	f		ne-vsl
	30-40	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/2	7.5 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m, 1 m-vc pl	no	111	cal sil	pl	vi
	25-35	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/2	10 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m-sg	no	11-11110	mmg cal		vi
*	80-110	10YR 8/2	10YR 6/3	45	<u>s</u>	m-sa	<u>nó.</u>	II`	<u>cmfcm</u> .		str

ngth of RV = 2 (table 3). The only way ate an appreciable northerly dip to l exposure of the upper contact of 2 (see arrow, fig. 2) indicates that with a sledge-hammer source seismic et of unit E dips less than 5° in the herefore, it is inferred that the orizontal before faulting.

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sense of separation was down to ately 50 cm of antithetic separation I and IA. Deposition of unit C was 1 to to 32 cm of vertical separation 8,000 years ago. The sense of '-1 is similar in amount and sense to ly the younger period of faulting observed in RV-1. - Rushort, Written condum., 1909)

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TABLE 1. -- Field description of soils in trench RV-2 ast and west walls of trench RV-2 north of the vertical grid line 00. The procedures and criteria used se recommended by Birkeland (1984). The soils in RV-1 were examined, but were not described; no, none

lor <sup>3</sup> moist	Percentage <sup>4</sup> larger than <u>4 mm</u>	Texture <sup>5</sup>	Structure <sup>6</sup>	Clay films <sup>7</sup>	Secondary stage	carbonate <sup>8</sup> dominant morphology	Effervescence <sup>9</sup>
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	L	m, vl vf-m sbk	no	0	no	str
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	35	L	m, vl vf-m sbk	i Cino	I	ncc	str
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	15	SL	m, vl vf-m sbk	no .	I	ncc ,	str
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SCL	2 f-c abk	2 n-mk brgcpf	I	f	sl
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SL	m, 1 vf-m abk	l−2 n-mk br gc pf	I	f	ne-vsl
7.5 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m, 1 m-vc pl	no	III	cal sil	pl vi
10YR 6/4	30	LS	m-sg	no	11-11110	) mmg cal	vi
10YR 6/3	45	s	m-sg				



Figure 1.—Index map of Rock Valley area. Rock Valley fault system shown by solid and dotted-dashed line where a physiographic scarp is present in Quaternary deposits and by dashed line where the fault trace is marked by vegetation line or offset drainage.

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## TRENCH LOGS FROM A

## EXPLANATION FOR FIGURE 2 DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

1

Quaternary map units shown on figure 2 are modified from Hoover and others (1981), which gives a more detailed discussion of the nomenclature and stratigraphic relations of these deposits. With the exception of unit QTa, unit designators are shown without the leading Q. Compound units (such as 1ab) indicate that the two units cannot be delineated separately at the scale of mapping (1:12,0 $\neq$ 0). Fractional unit designators (such as 1c/2bc) indicate a veneer of a young deposit that masks but does not completely conceal the underlying older deposit.

Modified land-Modified by construction, filling, or excavation

- Active wash deposits—Loose sand and gravel occupying well-defined channel floors. Unvegetated, lacks pavement. Channel form is unmodified. Unit Q1a of Hoover and others (1981)
- 1b Deposits of young washes—Similar to 1a. Generally lies 10 to 50 cm above floors of active washes. Sparsely vegetated; slight modification of original channel form. Generally mapped with 1a as 1ab because of scale. Unit Q1b of Hoover and others (1981)
- Ic Young fan and wash deposits—Sand and gravel comprising small alluvial fans and elevated terraces in washes; located 1 to 2 m above floors of active washes. Soils have very weak A/Cox profiles. Moderately vegetated. Distinctly more subdued channel forms than those of 1a or 1b. Cobble-bearing debris-flow fronts locally present on alluvial fans. Unit Q1c of Hoover and others (1981)
- Alluvial fan and wash deposits with surface and lithologic characteristics similar to those of deposits of Q2 age are nested inside and below 2c deposits--Usually mapped with 2c as 2bc where slight differences in pavement and drainage development indicate the likelihood of deposits of two different ages. Unit Q2b of Hoover and others (1981)
- c Intermediate-age alluvial fan and wash deposits-Vesicular silt overlying interbedded coarse gravelly sand and sandy gravel. Slight to moderate cementation of sand and gravel by pedogenic carbonate with stage II to stage III morphology (table 1, as used by Birkeland, 1984). Moderate to strong pavement development and moderate dissection with extensive areas of original depositional surface remaining. Unit Q2c of Hoover and others (1981) and equivalent, in part, to unit D, this report
- Ta Old alluvial fan deposits—Indurated, poorly sorted, muddy to sandy cobble and boulder gravel. Moderate to strong cementation by pedogenic carbonate with stage III to stage IV morphology (table 1). Pavement typically moderately developed owing to erosional degradation of the land surface. Boulders more common than on 2b or 2c surfaces. Carbonate-cemented material commonly exposed at or near the ground surface. Surface is dissected with rounded interfluves. Unit Qta of Hoover and others (1981) and equivalent to unit E, this report
- Rocks of Pavit Springs of Hinrichs (1968)—Interbedded light-gray (10YR 7/2) to pale-brown (10YR 6/3) thin- to thick-bedded siltstone and sandstone and white (10YR 8/2) to light-brown (7.5YR 6/4) silicic tuff and tuff breecia. Siltstone and sandstone contain diatoms and thin ash partings. Fish and plant debris locally present. Dominantly lacustrine basin-fill deposits, with minor interbeds of fluvial sandstone and conglomerate

W - Shears I and n=38

W4N

Figure 3.—Lower hemispher confidence (see Schueneme RV-2. n, number of clasts r represent clast fabric of un shear zones.

# ROM A STRAND OF THE ROCK VALLEY FAULT

By

James C. Yount, Ralph R. Shroba, Catherine R. McMasters,



# EY FAULT SYSTEM, NEVADA TEST SITE, NYE C <sup>By</sup>

R. McMasters, Heather E. Huckins, and Eduardo A. Rodriguez

N n with the

evada Nuclear Project 08-44802).





## NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

L	JJIKUL	بربا - بربا	( • • • • •
C	3Btkb2	20-25	7.5 <u>YR</u>
D	4Kqb	30-40	7.5 <u>Yk</u>
D	4Bk/Kb	25-35	7.5 <u>YR</u>
D	4Bkb	80-110	10 <u>YR</u> 8
E	58tb <sup>11</sup>	>45	7.5 <u>YR</u>
E	5КЬ	>30	7.5 <u>YR</u>

<sup>1</sup>Horizon designations follow those defcavities in the matrix of the A horizon These differences in horizon designatthickness of the overlying lithologic for RV-2. They are shown as one hori:

 $^{2}\mathrm{Horizon}$  thicknesses are approximate r:

<sup>3</sup>Colors were determined for the fine-ea

<sup>4</sup>Percentage of pebbles and larger clast

<sup>5</sup>Textural classes were estimated, based sandy clay loam; SL, sandy loam.

6Except for massive (m) and single gra-(2) size: vf, very fine; f, fine; m,

<sup>7</sup>Clay films are given in three parts: thick; (3) morphology: br, bridges but

<sup>8</sup>Data for secondary carbonate is given secondary carbonate; (2) dominant mory fillings; fcm, few cemented clasts; m clasts; no, none observed; pl, small;

<sup>9</sup>Effervescence was determined with dile

 $^{10}\mathrm{About}$  95 percent of the secondary carl

<sup>11</sup>At depth, the 5Btb horizon probably o

#### Procedure

The eastern of the two trenches (RV-2, fig. and brushes in April 1984. The lower meter of the approximately one-built meter since initial every

NORT

2Bk2	10-35	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	15	SL	m, vl vf-m sbk	no	I	ncc		str	
3Btkbl	20-30	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SCL	2 f-c abk	2 n-mk br gc pf	Ι	f		sl	
3Btkb2	20-25	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SL	m, 1 vf-m abk	1-2 n-mk br gc pf	Ι	f		ne-vsl	
4Kqb	30-40	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/2	7.5 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m, 1 m-vc pl	no	III	cal	sil	pl vi	
48k/Kb	25-35	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/2	10 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m-sg	no	II-III <sup>10</sup>	mng	cal	vi	
48kb	80-110	10 <u>YR</u> 8/2	10 <u>YR</u> 6/3	45	S	m-sg	no	II	cm	fcm	str	
58tb <sup>11</sup>	>45	7.5 <u>YR</u> 7/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	45	LS	m, 1 m-vc sbk	2 n br gc	0	no		ne	
5Kb	>30	7.5 <u>YR</u> 8/4	7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/6	70	LS	m, l vf-m sbk	no	I۷	mng	MCM	vi	

designations follow those defined by Birkeland (1984), except for the use of "v" which indicates the presence of small, vesicular s in the matrix of the A horizon. Some of the horizon designations are different for the same lithologic units in trenches RV-1 and RV-2. ifferences in horizon designations reflect differences in soil properties, the vertical sequence of lithologic units, and (or) the ss of the overlying lithologic units in the two trenches. Horizons 2Bkl and 2Bk2 are not shown as seperate horizons on the trench logs They are shown as one horizon designated 2Bk.

#### thicknesses are approximate ranges.

were determined for the fine-earth (less than 2 mm) fraction with the aid of Munsell color charts (Munsell Color Co., Inc., Baltimore).

age of pebbles and larger clasts was determined with the aid of visual percentage estimation charts.

I classes were estimated, based on the wet consistence and grittiness of the fine-earth fraction: L, loam; LS, loamy sand; S, sand; SCL. lay loam; SL, sandy loam.

for massive (m) and single grain (sg), structure is given in three parts: (1) grade: v1, very weak; 1, weak; 2, moderate; e: vf, very fine; f, fine; m, medium; c, coarse; vc, very coarse; (3) type: p1, platy; sbk, subangular blocky; abk, angular blocky.

Ims are given in three parts: (1) frequency: 1, few (5-25 percent); 2, common (25-50 percent); (2) thickness: n, thin; mk, moderately (3) morphology: br, bridges between grains; gc, grain coatings; pf, ped-face coatings; no, none observed.

r secondary carbonate is given in two parts: (1) stage, as used by Birkeland (1984), except for stage O, which indicates no visible ry carbonate; (2) dominant morphology: cal, thin carbonate laminae; cm, loose calcareous matrix; f, filaments, veinlets, and (or) pore ;; fcm, few cemented clasts; mcm, many cemented clasts; mmg, many matrix grains continuously coated; ncc, thin, patchy coatings on no, none observed; pl, small pisolite like grains; sil, thin, discontinuous laminae of opaline(?) silica.

scence was determined with dilute HCl: ne, noneffervescent; vsl, very slight; sl, slight; str, strong; vi, violent.

5 percent of the secondary carbonate has stage II morphology and about 5 percent has stage III morphology.

n, the 5Btb horizon probably overlies the 5Kb horizon, formed in unit E, that is exposed near the south end of trench RV-2.

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DISTRIBU	TION OF THIS DO	CUMEN! I	s unli	ni i <b>ES</b> VVV	Interior—Geolog For sale by U.S. Box 25286, Fede	ical Survey, Re Geological Surv ral Center, Den
Procedures	5Kb	62.7	23.5	13.8	SL	25.0
April 1984. The lower meter of the west wall had sloughed back	<sup>1</sup> All analyses	s were per	formed (	on materia	l less than 2 m	m in size.

meter since Initial evenyotion . Both trench walls were gridded in <sup>2</sup>Values for sand, silt 1. 11

7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	15	SL	m, vl vt-m sbk	no	i	ACC	561
7.5YR 5/4	20	SCL.	2 f-c abk	2 n-mk br gc pf	I	f	s1
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	20	SL	m, 1 vf-m abk	1-2 n-mk br gc pf	I	f	ne-vs]
7.5 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m, 1 m-vc pl	no	111	cal sil p	iv fo
10 <u>YR</u> 6/4	30	LS	m-sg	no	01111-11	mmg cal	vi
10YR 6/3	45	S	m-sg	no	II	cm fcm	str
7.5 <u>YR</u> 5/4	45	LS	m, 1 m~vc sbk	2 n br gc	0	no	ne
7.5YR 5/6	70	LS	m, 1 vf-m sbk	no	IV	mmg mcm	vi

by Birkeland (1984), except for the use of "v" which indicates the presence of small, vesicular Some of the horizon designations are different for the same lithologic units in trenches RV-1 and RV-2. reflect differences in soil properties, the vertical sequence of lithologic units, and (or) the ts in the two trenches. Horizons 2Bk1 and 2Bk2 are not shown as seperate horizons on the trench logs designated 2Bk.

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(less than 2 mm) fraction with the aid of Munsell color charts (Munsell Color Co., Inc., Baltimore).

as determined with the aid of visual percentage estimation charts.

1 the wet consistence and grittiness of the fine-earth fraction: L, loam; LS, loamy sand; S, sand; SCL,

(sg), structure is given in three parts: (1) grade: v1, very weak; 1, weak; 2, moderate; iium; c, coarse; vc, very coarse; (3) type: p], platy; sbk, subangular blocky; abk, angular blocky.

) frequency: 1, few (5-25 percent); 2, common (25-50 percent); (2) thickness: n, thin; mk, moderately en grains; gc, grain coatings; pf, ped-face coatings; no, none observed.

two parts: (1) stage, as used by Birkeland (1984), except for stage 0, which indicates no visible logy: cal, thin carbonate laminae; cm, loose calcareous matrix; f, filaments, veinlets, and (or) pore many cemented clasts; mmg, many matrix grains continuously coated; ncc, thin, patchy coatings on olite like grains; sil, thin, discontinuous laminae of opaline(?) silica.

5КЬ

HCl: ne, noneffervescent; vsl, very slight; sl, slight; str, strong; vi, violent.

ate has stage II morphology and about 5 percent has stage III morphology.

lies the 5Kb horizon, formed in unit E, that is exposed near the south end of trench RV-2.

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62.7 23.5

25.0

!) was cleaned using shovels, trowels, west wall had sloughed back lon. Both trench walls were gridded in  $^{1}$ All analyses were performed on material less than 2 mm in size.

13.8

2 Values for sand, silt and clay are based on slove and minette analyses