

# 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

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