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CLEARED MAY 25 '66

HISTORY OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING

NUCLEAR MATERIALS (J)

RS 3415

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7-8-66

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

1st Review Date: March 06, 2014	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> DD	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
Name: DE Ciskowski	<input type="radio"/> 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2nd Review Date: 3/13/14	<input type="radio"/> 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
Authority: DD	<input type="radio"/> 4. COORDINATE WITH:
Name: R.L. Shankle	<input type="radio"/> 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
	<input type="radio"/> 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	<input type="radio"/> 7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

38/9/21  
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JUL 8 1966

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1544

Group 1 - Excluded From Automatic  
Downgrading and Declassification

DISTRIBUTION

1A - Donald P. Dickason, Director, Storage Division  
- Walter F. White, Chief, Storage Operations Branch

PREPARED BY  
STORAGE OPERATIONS BRANCH  
STORAGE DIVISION  
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE

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-1-

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

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5/25/66

CONTENTS

1950

- Feb 1. Puget Sound, Washington  
Apr 2. Albuquerque, New Mexico  
July 3. Lebanon, Ohio  
Aug 4. Travis AFB, California  
Nov 5. St. Lawrence River

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

Other Down	Burn	Page	Detonat. ion	Ess. dest Severe Damage
-	-	3	-	-
-	✓	3	-	-
-	-	3	✓	-
-	-	3	✓	-
-	-	3	✓	-

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

1952

- may 6. Eielson AFB, Alaska

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

1956

7. At Sea

- MAY 8. Loring AFB, Maine

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

1957

- may 10. Kirtland AFB, New Mexico  
July 11. At Sea NJ Coast  
Oct 12. Homestead AFB, Florida  
Dec 13. Castle AFB, California

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

1958

DELETED

- Feb 15. Hunter AFB, Georgia  
Mar 16. Florence, South Carolina  
Nov 17. Dyess AFB, Texas  
Nov 18. Chennault AFB, Louisiana

DOE  
b(3)

1959

- Jan 19. PACAF Base  
July 20. Barksdale AFB, Louisiana  
Nov 20. Hardinsburg, Kentucky

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

1960

- Sept 21. at sea  
June 21. McGuire AFB, New Jersey

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

DOE b(3) 1961

- Jan 22. Goldsboro, NC  
Mar 23. Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina

- Mar 23. Yuba City, California

24. Winslow, Arizona AEC Ship 88th D-38 (not used)

6

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

- Mar 26. Forbes AFB, Kansas  
27. Marietta, Georgia

1963

- Nov 28. Medina Base, Texas 123K #HE

1964

- Jan 29. Cumberland, Maryland  
30. Grants, New Mexico

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

-2- ~~SECRET~~ RD

\* At Sea Sept 59



~~SECRET~~ RD

CONTENTS

1964

- Dec 31. Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota  
Dec 32. Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana

DELETED  
DOE  
b(3)

Other  
Dam

Burn

Page

Deton.

Fires dest  
Severe Dam

✓  
2(v)

—  
(3)✓

7  
7

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DELETED  
DOE  
b(3)

- 33 Reservoir/Ext. Generator  
Shipments Wright AFB

1965

10/65

Dec 34

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

Sec 12/65

1966

Jan 35 Palomares Spain

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

(2)✓

—

2(v)

—

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

Jan 36. Thule Greenland

1968

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

Sept 28 37 Sub  
Scorpion, East-Atlantic Spring 64  
• 2 W346

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

19 Sept 80

Titan/W33 Remains OK.

1980

~~SECRET~~ RD



~~SECRET~~ RD

1. Vancouver Island, B. C. -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Don't*

The release was over water. The B-36 was flown over Vancouver and the crew bailed out. The aircraft was found approximately one year later on land in the wilderness.

2. Albuquerque, New Mexico -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Burned*

The crash occurred after take-off from Kirtland AFB. Total loss of aircraft and crew. Weapon burned but did not detonate.

*RECOVERED.*

3. Lebanon, Ohio -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Detonation*

There was a detonation. The crew was lost. Cause of the accident could not be established.

4. Travis AFB, California -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Detonation*

Weapon detonated. Brigadier General Robert Travis and crew killed.

5. St. Lawrence River -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Detonation*

Altitude 10,500 feet. Weapon was set for live burst and detonated.

6. Eielson AFB, Alaska -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

7. At Sea -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Not sent.*

The aircraft is believed to have crashed at sea, cause unknown. No trace of aircraft or cargo was found.

8. Loring AFB, Maine -

9.

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*✓*  
*usually*

*✓*  
*usually*

~~SECRET~~ RD



~~SECRET~~ RD

10. Kirtland AFB, N. M. -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

The aircraft was at 1700 feet on a landing approach. There was an HE detonation but no nuclear explosion. There was no property damage or loss of life. Accident was attributed to human error. Crew member of B-36 contacted exposed release cable in bomb bay.

*Detonation*

11. At Sea -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

No detonation was The drop was made from 4500 feet altitude. The Navy searched the area but found nothing.

*Lost*

12. Homestead AFB, Florida -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

Both plane and weapon burned and the crew was killed. There were two low order detonations but no radiation. The capsule was aboard the aircraft but not installed. It was recovered in a damaged condition.

*Burned*

13. Castle AFB, California

14.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

15. Hunter AFB, Georgia -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

The weapon was not recovered.

*Lost*

16. Florence, South Carolina -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

It detonated on impact, damaging six houses, a church and injuring six people.

*Detonation*

17. Dyess AFB, Texas -

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

*Detonation*

~~SECRET~~ RD



~~SECRET~~ RD

18. Chennault AFB, Louisiana -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Dismiss*

19. Barksdale AFB, Louisiana -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Dismiss*  
4

20. Hardinsburg, Kentucky -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

4  
*Dismiss*

- LRL 21. McGuire AFB, New Jersey -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

*Dismiss*

22. Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina - On January 24, 1961, a B-52 crashed following rupture of wing tank.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

One weapon parachute deployed and the weapon survived. One weapon free fell and was destroyed. No detonation.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

*Dismiss*

23. Yuba City, California -

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

There was no detonation or burning of either weapon, and no radiological hazards resulted from the accident. The weapons separated from the aircraft during aircraft breakup following impact with the ground.

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

4  
*Dismiss*

~~SECRET~~ RD



~~SECRET~~ RD

24. Winslow, Arizona - On November 4, 1961, an AEC classified shipment from Tonopah, Nevada to the Sandia Corporation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, caught fire one mile east of Winslow, Arizona. The shipment was being transported by Apex Freight Lines under escort of ALO couriers. There was no HE in this shipment; however, there were approximately 85 pounds of D-38 in one box. There were no radiation or contamination problems. Walter F. White, ALO, responded.

Weapon prototypes  
MK 53 HE test unit  
Two commercial trucks. One had MK 53 test unit with HE system. It did not get damaged.

25.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

26. Forbes AFB, Kansas

27. Marietta, Georgia - On December 3, 1962, at 5 a.m. EST a Louisville & Nashville freight train was derailed near Marietta, Georgia. Two couriers accompanying the shipment received minor injuries.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

W. F. White and J. L. Cameron were dispatched to the scene as accident investigators. Ray Slavik and Clifford Anderson were dispatched from TONAO to examine the shoring of the cargo. The shipment arrived at its destination on December 5.

28. Medina Base - On November 13, 1963 at 9:20 a.m. MST, approximately 123,000 pounds of HE exploded in one igloo.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

Three Mason & Hanger - Silas Mason Company employees received minor injuries. Over 1400 claims were filed in connection with the accident.

29. Cumberland, Maryland - On January 13, 1964 at 0740Z, a B-52 crashed near Lonaconing, Maryland.

DELETED DOE  
b(3)

30. Grants, New Mexico - On March 15, 1964, the ALO Duty Officer received notification that an ICX trailer carrying radioactive material had veered into a ditch near Grants. The radioactive material, enriched uranium oxide, was being shipped from Apollo, Pa., to Atomic's International, Canoga Park, California. The response team monitored the area and determined that no spillage of material had occurred.

-6-  
~~SECRET~~ RD



~~SECRET~~ RD

31. Minuteman Missile, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota - On December 5, 1964, a retrocket fired on a Minuteman missile dislodging the Re-entry Vehicle which contained a Mk-56 warhead. The RV fell 75 feet to the floor of the silo. A response team consisting of D. P. Dickason and R. K. Peterson, S/C (Livermore) proceeded to the scene where they were later joined by N. D. Benedict, LRL. The RV was successfully hoisted out of the silo in a cargo net through use of a mobile crane and was transported to Medina for post mortem.
32. Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana - On December 8, 1964, a B-58 skidded off the runway and burned while taking part in an Operational Readiness Inspection.

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

- DOE  
b(3)
- 33 Reservoir Shipment (Wright-Pat)  
34 ~~DELETED~~ DOE b(3) lost off carrier at sea  
35 Palomares, Spain Jan 17, 1966  
36 Thule 1/21/68

AT SEA

SEPTEMBER 25, 1959  
~~ON AUGUST 12, 1958~~

DELETED

DOE  
b(3)

~~CARRIED ON EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND, DATE.~~ TYPE OF  
AIRCRAFT - P5M-2

-7-

~~SECRET~~ RD

See next doc WPT  
USAF Reports thru  
Palomares 1966