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# **Headquarters U.S. Air Force**

*Integrity - Service - Excellence*

## **Unauthorized Transfer of Nuclear Warheads**



**Maj Gen Doug Raaberg**  
Investigating Officer

This Briefing  
is Classified:  
~~SECRET//RDI~~

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## *Purpose*

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- Provide information on the unauthorized transfer of nuclear warheads from Minot AFB, ND to Barksdale AFB, LA

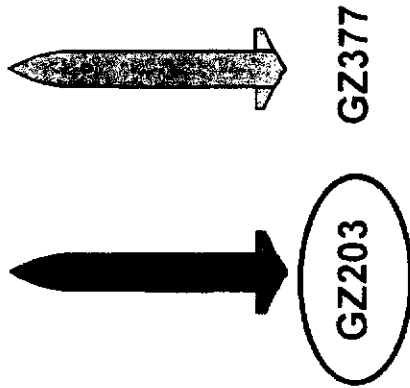
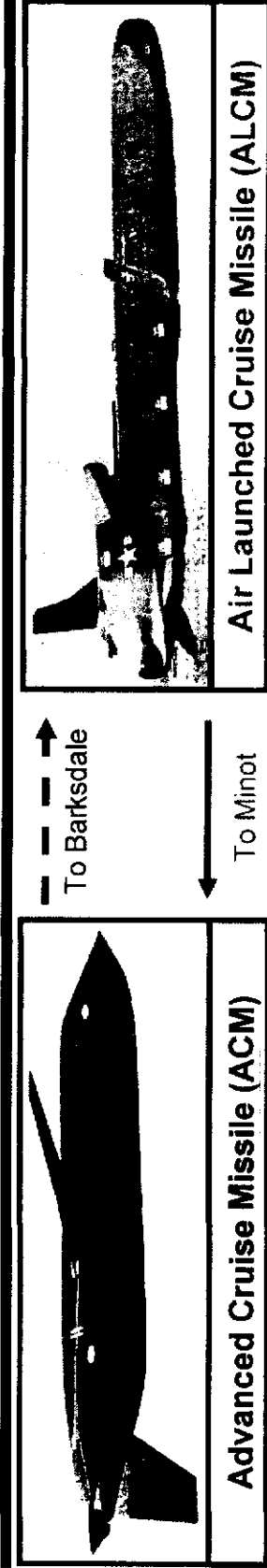
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# Cruise Missiles Repostured...



(b)(3) DOE & (b)(1) ACC

**Six W80 nuclear warheads were transferred without authorization**



## **Facts**

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- The Air Force has valid nuclear procedures
- Six W80 nuclear warheads transferred without authorization
- (S)(1) ACC
- Missiles were never electronically accessed
- B-52H crew could not have launched, armed the missiles
- They were capable of in-flight jettisoning missiles and, or pylon(s)
- Numerous scheduling errors led to the actual transfer
- Personnel failed to follow established nuclear procedures
- Leadership and supervision did not prevent this from happening

**Breakdown in training, discipline, supervision and leadership...**

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# Scheduling to Dispatch

## 3 Key Process Breakdowns

August	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
FORMAL PRINTED SCHEDULE	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					377				377								377		
						358													

August	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
INFORMAL WORKING SLIDES	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



wasn't prepared for tactical-ferry

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(b)(1) ACC

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING TO DISPATCH  
3 KEY PROCESS BREAKDOWNS

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## ***Recommendations***

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- DoD conduct top-level review of nuclear standards, guidance
- US Air Force establish Blue-Ribbon panel to review nuclear training
- Air Combat Command's Commander will recertify the tactical-ferry program prior to reinitiating B-52 ferry operations
- Adopt single, standard placard delineating nuclear from nuclear-inert, test, training payloads
- Standardize common nuclear custodial procedures
- Reinforce commanders' accountability of their nuclear ordnance

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