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Description of document: National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nuclear Accidents 1950s and 1960s

Requested date: 2020

Release date: 15-January-2021

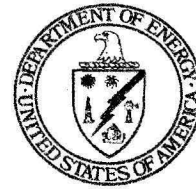
Posted date: 25-January-2021

Source of document: FOIA/PA Officer
NNSA/Office of the General Counsel
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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185



JAN 29 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

This letter is the final response to your January 12, 2009, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of any and all records, photos, etc. pertaining to nuclear weapon accidents/incidents covering the period of January 1, 1951 through December 31, 1995.

We contacted the Los Alamos Field Office (LAFO), which has oversight responsibility for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Los Alamos National security (LANS), about your request. LNAS searched and located two documents to your request. One document, A Compendium of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Accidents was previously provided under FOIA 09-00025-H. The second document, Department of Defense – Narrative Summaries of Accidents involving U.S. Nuclear Weapons 1950-1980, can be found online at http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/Reading_Room/NCB/965.pdf.

We contacted Sandia Field Office (SFO), which has oversight responsibility for Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), about your request. SFO and SNL searched and located three documents responsive to your request:

1. History of Accidents Involving Nuclear Materials, dated May 25, 1966
2. History of Accidents Involving Nuclear Materials
3. Letter to D.L. Foster, ALO, DOE from E. H. Plassman, LASL, DOE w/enclosure

These documents were reviewed by SFO, SNL and the Los Alamos Field Office (LAFO). Pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1004.6 (10 CFR § 1004.6), the Office of Classification, Office of Environment, of Health, Safety and Security, in the Department of Energy (DOE) has also reviewed the documents responsive to your request. The documents are provided to you with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(3) (Exemption 3 of the FOIA).

Title 5, United States Code, section 552(b)(3) (5 USC § 552(b)(3)) (Exemption 3), exempts from disclosure information specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552(b) of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, 42 USC § 2011 et seq., is an Exemption 3 statute. Sections 141-146 of this Act (42 USC §§ 2161-2166) prohibit the disclosure of information concerning atomic energy defense programs that is classified as either RD or FRD pursuant to the AEA, as amended. The portions deleted from the subject documents pursuant to Exemption 3 contain information about weapon

design that has been classified as RD and/or stockpile quantities that has been classified as FRD. Disclosure of the exempt data could jeopardize the common defense and the security of the nation.

To the extent permitted by law, the DOE, pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.1, will make available records it is authorized to withhold under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) whenever it determines that such disclosure is in the public interest. With respect to the information withheld from disclosure pursuant to Exemption 3, the DOE has no further discretion under the FOIA or DOE regulations to release information currently and properly classified pursuant to the AEA, as amended.

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.6(d), Dr. Andrew P. Weston-Dawkes, Director, Office of Classification, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, is the official responsible for the denial of the information determined by DOE to be classified under Exemption 3.

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.8, you may appeal our withholding of information, in writing, within 30 calendar days after receipt of this letter, to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Energy, L'Enfant Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, or you may also submit your appeal by email to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. The written appeal, including envelope, must clearly indicate that a Freedom of Information Act appeal is being made, and the appeal must contain all other elements required by 10 CFR § 1004.8. Judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the District of Columbia or in the district where: (1) you reside, (2) you have your principal place of business, or (3) the Department's records are situated.

There are no charges to you for processing your FOIA request.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Sandra Lewandowski by e-mail at Sandra.lewandowski@nnsa.doe.gov, or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 13-00249-R.

Sincerely,



Jane Summerson
Authorizing Official

Enclosures

Bcc w/out enclosure:

Geraldine Vigil, LAFO

Jennifer Bitsie, SFO

File No. : FOIA 13-00249-R

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No. 1 of 1 Copies, Series B

CLEARED MAY 25 '66

HISTORY OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING

NUCLEAR MATERIALS (J)

RS 3415

48065

7-8-66

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

1st Review Date: March 06, 2014
Authority: ☐ DC ☐ DD
Name: DE Ciskowski
2nd Review Date: 3/13/14
Authority: DD
Name: R.L. Shankle

1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
2. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
3. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
4. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
5. COORDINATE WITH:
6. CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
7. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
8. OTHER (SPECIFY):

3819/21

REC'D 1540		
TO	ORG.	CODE
	1541	
	1542	
	1543	
	1544	
	RET.	1540

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
DOE OFFICE OF CLASSIFICATION

DC HIX, AU-63 DATE 5/20/14

JUL 8 1966

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1966

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

~~SECRET~~

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AS DEFINED IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF
1954. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE DISCLOSURE
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UN-
AUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED.

20140007463

~~SECRET~~ RD

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

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Other Down Burn

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DOE
b(3)

1952

- May 6. Eielson AFB, Alaska

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

1956

7. At Sea

- Mar 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 19. Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
Nov 20. Hardinsburg, Kentucky

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

1960

- Sept 21. at sea

DELETED DOE
b(3)

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

- June 21. McGuire AFB, New Jersey

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 85th 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

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DOE
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Other
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DOE
b(3)

- 33 Reservoir/Ext. Generator
Shipments Wright AFB

1965

10/65

Dec 34.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

See 12/65

1966

- Jan 35 Palomares Spain

DELETED DOE
b(3)

(2)✓

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2(v)

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DELETED

DOE
b(3)

- Jan 36. Thule Greenland

1968

DELETED DOE
b(3)

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

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

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

19 Sept 80

7144/W33 Remembrance ork.

1980

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

1. Vancouver Island, B. C. -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

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)

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

3. Lebanon, Ohio -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

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

4. Travis AFB, California -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

Weapon detonated. Brigadier General Robert Travis and crew killed.

5. St. Lawrence River -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

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)

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)

~~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)

Lost

No detonation was

The drop was made from 4500 feet altitude. The Navy searched the area but found nothing.

12. Homestead AFB, Florida -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Burned

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.

13. Castle AFB, California

14.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

15. Hunter AFB, Georgia -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Lost

The weapon was not recovered.

16. Florence, South Carolina -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Detonation

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

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

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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
1 MK 53 Tullit test unit
1 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)

~~CARTRIDGE OR EXPLOSIVE FUSE AND, ONLY.~~ TYPE OF
AIRCRAFT - P5M-2

-7-

~~SECRET~~ RD

See next doc WRT
USAF Reports thru
Palomares 1966

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OF 11 PAGES, NO. 1
OF 6 COPIES, SERIES A



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HISTORY OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING
NUCLEAR MATERIALS

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
DOE OFFICE OF CLASSIFICATION

DC HIX, AU-63 DATE 5/20/14

~~DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW~~

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

CLASSIFIED ON Jan 7 1975
By R. L. Shankle (name)
Act. Dir. for Weapons (title)
Reactors & Envir. Oper.

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

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~~SECRET~~ RD

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37. SSN Scorpion, Atlantic		

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

Pencil Numbers Cross
Reference Page Numbers
In DASA Technical Letter 20-3

- A-3 1. Vancouver Island, British Columbia -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

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

- A-3 2. Albuquerque, New Mexico -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The crash occurred after take-off from Kirtland AFB with a total loss of aircraft and crew. The weapon burned but did not detonate.

- A-3 3. Lebanon, Ohio -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The weapon detonated and the crew was lost. Cause of the accident could not be established. No weapon components were recovered.

- A-3 4. Travis AFB, California -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The weapon detonated and no components were recovered. Brigadier General Robert Travis and crew were killed.

- A-3 5. St. Lawrence River -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The weapon was set for live air burst and it detonated.

- A-5 6. Eielson AFB, Alaska -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

- A-5 - 7. At Sea, Over the Atlantic -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

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

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

8. Loring AFB, Maine -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

10. Kirtland AFB, New Mexico -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

The aircraft was 1,700 feet on a landing approach at the time of the release. There was an HE detonation but no nuclear explosion. There was no property damage or loss of life. The accident was attributed to human error. A crew member of the aircraft apparently pulled a release cable in the bomb bay.

11. At Sea, Over the Atlantic -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

No detonation was observed. The drop was made from about 4,500 feet altitude. The Navy searched the area following the accident but found no trace of the weapons.

12. Homestead AFB, Florida -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

Both the plane and the weapon burned and the crew was killed. There were two low order detonations but no radiation hazard was detected.

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

13. Castle AFB, California -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

15. *Mouth of Savannah River*
Hunter AFB, Georgia -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

A-5
The weapon was not recovered although an extensive search was conducted by the U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. Navy, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the U. S. Air Force.

16. Florence, South Carolina -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

A-3
It detonated on impact, damaging six houses, a church, and injuring several people.

17. Dyess AFB, Texas -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

18. Chenault AFB, Louisiana -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

19. Barksdale AFB, Louisiana -

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

A-6
20. Hardinsburg, Kentucky -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

A-3
21. McGuire AFB, New Jersey -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

A-5
22. ^{Goldstboro, NC} Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina - On January 24, 1961, a B-52 aircraft ^{DOE/AL} crashed following the rupture of a wing tank during refueling operation. ^{DOE/AL}

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The parachute of one weapon deployed and the weapon survived practically intact. The other weapon fell free and was destroyed. There was no detonation but the weapon buried itself deep in the ground.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

A-6
23. Yuba City, California -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

There was no detonation or burning of either weapon and no radiological hazard resulted from either weapon. The weapons were thrown from the aircraft during the aircraft breakup following impact to the ground. ^{DOE/AL}

DELETED DOE
b(3)

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

- I-2
24. Winslow, Arizona - On November 4, 1961, an AEC classified shipment of weapons prototypes from Tonopah, Nevada, to 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 container which was involved in the fire. The trailer was destroyed. There was no radiation or contamination of the area because of the prompt action of the Winslow Fire Department. W. B. Kingsley, Sandia Corporation, and Walter F. White, ALO, responded.

I-1
A-6

25.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

- I-2
A-6
26. Forbes AFB, Kansas

- I-3
27. Marietta, Georgia - On December 3, 1962, a Louisville and Nashville freight train was derailed near Marietta, Georgia. DOE/AL
Hand File

DELETED DOE
b(3)

W. F. White and John L. Cameron were dispatched to the scene as investigators. Ray Slavik and Clifford Anderson were dispatched by TONAO to inspect the shoring of the cargo. There was no fire or radiation hazard. The cargo remained within the ATMX cars undisturbed from the original shoring position. The ATMX cars were placed back on the track and arrived at Oak Ridge without further incident on December 5, 1962.

- A-3
28. Medina Base, Texas - On November 13, 1963, approximately 123,000 pounds of HE exploded in one igloo at Medina Base.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Extensive investigation revealed no radiation hazard. Three Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason & Co. employees received minor injuries. Considerable glass breakage and residential damage was reported in the San Antonio area. Over 1,400 legal claims were filed in connection with this accident.

~~SECRET~~ RD

~~SECRET~~ RD

29. Cumberland, Maryland -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

30. Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota - On December 5, 1964, a retrorocket ^(Vale, SO) #11, APPX IV 4/1/65 fired in a Minuteman missile in a silo located near Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The explosion dislodged the Re-entry Vehicle which contained a Mk-56 warhead. It fell approximately 75 feet to the floor of the silo. There was no fire and no HE detonation. There was no radioactivity detected. A response team consisting of D. P. Dickason, ALO, and R. K. Peterson, Sandia Corporation, Livermore, proceeded to the scene where they were later joined by N. D. Benedict, of IRL. The Re-Entry Vehicle was successfully removed from the silo, X-rayed, packaged, and shipped to Medina for post-mortem. ^{DOE/AL Dead File}

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b(3)

31. Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The aircraft and weapons burned for approximately 5 hours. There was some localized radioactivity. Some of the HE burned and one tritium reservoir was vented.

32. Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

An AEC team consisting of D. J. Hart, ALO; T. W. Gore, DAO; and R. D. Schaefer, K. F. Chaney, J. M. Garner and P. C. Adams, from Monsanto Research Corporation, were dispatched to the scene. Somewhat later, R. Caldwell, SRO, and J. Womack, P. Walker and R. Baker, from E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., participated in the clean-up and packaging operation. DAO provided a truck-mounted T-289 which was used for several days in monitoring the area and residue from the cargo. The AEC team identified the zippers and reservoirs by serial number, opened the individual containers, decontaminated the contents and repackaged the material for shipment to SRO and Pantex.

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33.

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b(3)

The pilot, aircraft, and weapon were lost at sea and never recovered.

34.

Palomares, Spain -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Two of the weapons detonated, low order, and there was some plutonium contamination. One weapon was recovered practically intact on land, and another was recovered some two and one-half months later from the sea off Palomares.

DELETED DOE
b(3)

The AEC team participated in identification, decontamination, trajectory studies, packaging and return of residue to the United States.

35.

Mayport Naval Air Station, Florida -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

36.

Thule, Greenland -

DELETED DOE
b(3)

Extensive recovery and decontamination efforts were pursued for several months with representatives of LASL, LLL, Sandia Laboratories and ALO, assisting the DOD in their efforts. A large quantity of contaminated ice water and debris was returned to SROO for burial. Weapon and aircraft components were returned to appropriate AEC and DOD facilities for post-mortem and disposal.

37.

SSN 589 Scorpion - In the late spring of 1968 the US Nuclear Submarine Scorpion was lost at sea in mid-atlantic. Circumstances of the loss were not fully known, however, there were two nuclear weapons on board at the time of the accident; recovery was effected.

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38. Yorktown Naval Ammunition Depot -

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b(3)

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✓ ROEDER

JAN 2/2/80

~~SECRET~~

ACTION



Martinez

REDACTED COPY

MILLER

Carroll

Holmes

Shaykin

Soden

Werkema

~~D00032321~~
D00032834

Director's & Deputy Director's Comments



*Should be changed
to FATH*

~~Buckingham~~

RESTRICTED DATA

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BURCH

Buisman

Cruickshank

Harker

Pryor

Straba

McDonald

SAYER

Copp

Schinkle

Shurick

Johnson

Other Comments

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
DOE OFFICE OF CLASSIFICATION

DC HIX, AU-63 DATE 5/20/14

✓ FOSTER

Douglas

SHAY

Avery

Trimble

Williams

Trujillo

ELLIOTT

Barraclough

Golliher

Walston

Barnes

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

1st Review Date: March 06, 2014

Authority: ☒ DC ☐ DD

Name: DE Ciskowski

2nd Review Date: 3/14/14

Authority: DD

Name: R.L. Shankle

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University of California



LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY

Post Office Box 1663 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

in reply refer to: WX-5-80-91
Mail stop: 780

February 14, 1980

Mr. D. L. Foster
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Post Office Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Dear Mr. Foster:

Enclosed is the document that you requested.

Very truly yours,

E. H. Plassmann

E. H. Plassmann
WX-5 Group Leader

EHP:tmg

Enclosure: W-1-L-1624, dated March 25, 1966 (SRD)

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NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENTS

W-1-L-1624

March 25, 1966

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES

NO 1 OF 1 COPIES. SERIES E

Date	Location	Weapons	Extent of Damage	Cause
2/14/50	Vancouver Island, B. C.	DELETED	DOE b(3)	Intentionally jettisoned from crashing B36 aircraft
4/11/50	Manzano Mts., Albuquerque, N. M.			B29 aircraft crashed
7/13/50	Lebanon, Ohio			B50 aircraft crashed
8/5/50	Travis AFB, Fairfield, Calif.			Aircraft crashed on takeoff
11/10/50	St. Lawrence River			Intentionally jettisoned from B50 aircraft
5/9/52	Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska	DELETED	DOE b(3)	Accidentally jettisoned from B36 aircraft
5/22/57	Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N. M.			

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NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENTS CONT'D

W-1-L-1624

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Date	Location	Weapon	Extent of Damage	Cause
7/29/57	At sea off N. J. coast			Weapons jettisoned from C124 aircraft
10/11/57	Homestead AFB, Fla.			B47 aircraft crashed and burned on takeoff
<div>DELETED DOE b(3)</div>				
2/5/58	Savannah River, Ga.			B47/F86 midair collision
3/11/58	Florence, S. C.			Weapon jettisoned from B47 aircraft by unknown cause
11/4/58	Dyess AFB, Abilene, Tex.			B47 aircraft crashed during takeoff
11/26/58	Chennault AFB, Lake Charles, La.			B47 aircraft caught fire during acceptance check
7/6/59	Barksdale AFB, Shreveport, La.			C124 aircraft crashed during takeoff
10/15/59	Hardinsburg, Ky.			B52/KC 135 collided during refueling operation

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NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENTS CONT'D

W-1-L-1624

Page 3

Date	Location	Weapons	Extent of Damage	Cause
6/7/60	McGuire AFB, Wrightstown, N. J.			Bomarc missile caught fire
1/24/61	Goldsboro, N. C.			B52 aircraft broke up, due to turbulence, and released bombs
3/14/61	Yuba City, Calif.			B52 aircraft crashed as a result of engine failure
<div>DELETED DOE b(3)</div>				
12/15/62	Kincheloe AFB, Kinross, Mich.			
11/13/63	Medina Base, San Antonio, Tex.			HE accidentally ignited in storage igloo
1/13/64	Cumberland, Md.			B52 aircraft crashed due to severe turbulence

DELETED

DOE
b(3)

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NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENTS CONT'D

W-1-L-1624

Page 4

Date	Location	Weapons	Extent of Damage	Cause
12/5/64	Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, S.D.			Retro-rocket in third stage of missile fired by stray voltage during test
12/8/64	Bunker Hill AFB, Peru, Ind.			B58 aircraft landing gear collapsed when plane slipped off runway; plane burned
DELETED DOE b(3)				
1/17/66	Palomares, Spain			B52/KC135 collided during refueling operation
1/21/68	Mule, Greenland			Emergency landing attempted due to fire in H.C.

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