

~~SECRET~~

BROKEN ARROW

1. 13 February 1950 -- Pacific Ocean (off Princess Royal Island, British Columbia).

A B-36 developed mechanical difficulty which caused the shutdown of three engines (#1-2-5). A [redacted] bomb with a dummy capsule was jettisoned at 8,000 feet and was observed to detonate over water. [redacted] The aircraft was enroute from Etison AFB, Alaska to Carswell AFB, Texas. The crew bailed out after the weapon was jettisoned. The aircraft wreckage was located 1 year later on Vancouver Island.

2. 11 April 1950 -- Manzano Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A B-29 carrying a [redacted] bomb crashed and burned after takeoff from Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The aircraft burned and all crew members were killed. The weapon was burned, but there was no detonation or contamination. The weapon components were recovered.

3. 13 July 1950 -- Lebanon, Ohio.

A B-50 aircraft with one weapon onboard crashed. The HE detonated on impact and the 4 officers and 12 airmen onboard were killed.

4. 5 August 1950 -- Fairchild Suisan Field (now Travis AFB).

A B-29 aircraft crashed on takeoff due to inability to retract gear and two runaway props. A [redacted] bomb was onboard and an HE detonation occurred killing 17 personnel, including Gen Travis, and injured 60 others.

5. 10 November 1950 -- [redacted]

A B-50 aircraft with one weapon onboard jettisoned it during an emergency situation from 10,500 feet. The HE in the weapons was detonated as an airburst. No components were recovered.

6. 10 March 1956 -- At Sea: Atlantic.

A B-47 aircraft enroute from MacDill AFB, Florida to [redacted] crashed at sea due to unknown causes. Two [redacted] capsules were onboard. No weapons were onboard. The plane, crew, and capsules were lost.

7. 27 July 1956 -- [redacted]

The pilot lost control of B-47 aircraft and crashed into a storage magazine. The impact pushed one bomb into two other like weapons. The aircraft caught fire and the fire damaged all three weapons. Local fire department personnel assisted in the fire fighting.

Document released under the
Freedom of Information Act
DNA Case No. 88-106

~~SECRET~~

15. 26 November 1958 -- Chenault AFB, Louisiana.

A B-47 aircraft carrying one weapon caught fire on the ground. [REDACTED] The weapon was destroyed by fire. [REDACTED] There was no HE detonation [REDACTED] contamination was found in the vicinity of the weapon residue only. [REDACTED]

16. 18 January 1959 -- Overseas.

An F-100D aircraft on practice alert was carrying a bomb. When the starter button was pushed, three fuel tanks were jettisoned. One tank was ruptured and caught fire. [REDACTED] There was no detonation or [REDACTED] contamination.

17. 6 July 1959 -- Barksdale AFB, Louisiana (Shreveport)

A C-124 aircraft [REDACTED] on a nuclear logistics movement mission crashed on take-off. The aircraft was destroyed by fire which also destroyed one weapon. No nuclear or high explosive detonation occurred - safety devices functioned as designed. [REDACTED] Limited [REDACTED] contamination was present over a very small area immediately below the destroyed weapon. This contamination did not hamper rescue or fire fighting operations.

18. 25 September 1959 -- Whidby Island, Washington.

A U.S. Navy P-5M aircraft, assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, crashed in the Pacific Ocean about 100 miles west of Washington/Oregon border. It was carrying an unarmed nuclear antisubmarine weapon containing no nuclear material. The weapon was not recovered.

19. 15 October 1959 - Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

A B-52 aircraft was involved in a mid-air collision with a KC-135 tanker at approximately 32,000 ft. Two bombs were aboard the B-52 and were broken loose and thrown 20 ft when the plane crashed. There was no detonation or contamination. One weapon was partially burned in the afterbody. Both weapons were recovered. Four crew members ejected and four others were killed.

20. 7 June 1960 -- McGuire AFB, New Jersey.

A BOMARC missile carrying a warhead burned on the ground due to failure of the [REDACTED] helium reservoir. The explosion of the reservoir ignited the fuel tanks. The warhead was destroyed by fire. There was no HE detonation but contamination existed below the weapon and in a 100 ft long area caused by runoff from the firefighting effort.

~~SECRET~~

21. 24 January 1961 -- Goldsboro, North Carolina. ~~SECRET~~

A B-52 aircraft carrying two bombs crashed due to structural failure of the right wing. Aircraft broke apart and weapons were dropped; one with the parachute deployed and one free fall. One weapon received little impact damage. The other broke apart at impact. [REDACTED] was deeply buried (more than 50 ft) and was not recovered. There was no detonation or contamination and five of the eight crew members survived the crash.

22. 14 March 1961 -- Yuba City, California.

A B-52 aircraft carrying two bombs experienced a failure of the crew compartment pressure system which forced the aircraft to descend to 10,000 ft altitude. The additional fuel consumed at this altitude caused the aircraft to run out of fuel prior to a tanker arrival. The crew bailed out at 10,000 ft and the commander bailed out at 4,000 ft. The weapons were torn loose from the aircraft at impact but there was no detonation or contamination.

23. 13 November 1963 -- (AEC) now DoE - Medina Base, Texas.

An AEC igloo explosion involving 123,000 lbs of HE resulted in injury to three personnel and the filing of more than 1400 legal claims. [REDACTED]

24. 13 January 1964 -- Cumberland, Maryland.

A B-52 aircraft carrying two bombs crashed 19 miles SW of Cumberland, MD, due to structural failure (tail broke off). There was no detonation or contamination but weapon recovery was hampered by sub-zero weather and snow. Both weapons were recovered and had received major damage. Two members of the crew survived and three were killed.

25. 5 December 1964 -- Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

The retro-rocket of a Minuteman I missile was fired by stray voltage during checkout when a crewman shorted the plus side of the power ground with a screwdriver. The missile had a warhead on board. The RV fell 75 feet and received major damage. There was no detonation or contamination.

26. 8 December 1964 -- Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana.

A B-58 on a test with five nuclear weapons on board skidded off an icy runway, caught fire and burned. There was no detonation but 4 weapons were destroyed by the fire. The remaining one was damaged. Contamination consisted of slight contamination of the weapons and negligible contamination on the runway.

27. 11 December 1965 -- Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

A C-124 aircraft carrying nuclear components, [REDACTED] and a nuclear weapon trainer, was being refueled when a fire developed in the aft end of refueling trailer due to an inadvertent disconnect of the refueling apparatus. The aircraft and components were destroyed and there was minor contamination.

~~SECRET~~

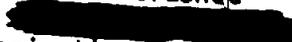
28. 5 December 1965 -- At Sea: Pacific 

An A4 aircraft carrying a bomb rolled off elevator #2. The pilot, aircraft, and weapon were lost.

29. 17 January 1966 -- Palomares, Spain.

A B-52 aircraft carrying four bombs was involved in a mid-air collision with a KC-135 tanker. The B-52 crashed near Palomares. One weapon fell into the Mediterranean Sea and was recovered on 7 April 1966. The other three weapons fell on land. Two detonated and one was recovered intact. There was extensive contamination. Seven crew members were killed and four survived.

30. 21 January 1968 -- Thule, Greenland.

~~(S)~~ A B-52 aircraft from Plattsburgh AFB, NY had an inflight fire and crashed on the ice covered bay near Thule. Four bombs were on board.  destroyed the weapons and produced extensive contamination. One crew member was killed.

31. Late Spring 1968 -- At Sea: Atlantic.



32. 19 September 1980 -- Damascus, Arkansas.

A Titan II missile, with a warhead mounted, developed a fuel leak when a socket wrench was dropped and punctured the skin. Fuel escaped and subsequently exploded destroying the silo. The missile explosion threw the warhead approximately 500 feet from the silo. The warhead sustained extensive mechanical damage. There was no warhead detonation or contamination. One crewman was killed and several were hospitalized.

~~SECRET~~