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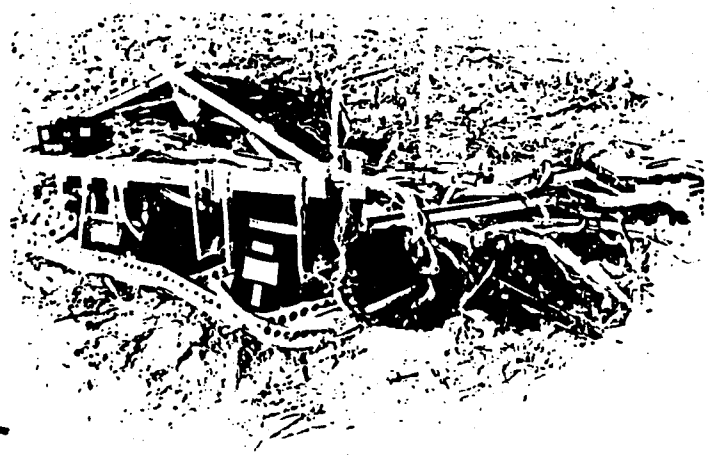
UNIQUE DOCUMENT # SAC200117770000

1-23-61 GOLDSBORO, N. C.

... with nuclear weapons - had wing failure during air refueling - structural breakup of RB wing.

wire bundles severed open & grounded to structure - components crushed - wire bundles melted together.



1/24/61 - B52 FLYING ALERT OVER GOLDSBORO, N.C. ON OPERATION COVERALL WITH TWO [redacted] WEAPONS EXPERIENCED RUPTURED WING FUEL TANK, BROKE UP IN FLIGHT, AND CRASHED. BOMBS WERE TORN FROM BOMB BAY BY VIOLENT AIRCRAFT MANEUVERS.

DOE (b)(3)

- ONE [redacted] FREE FELL AND WAS DESTROYED ON IMPACT.
- OTHER [redacted] EXPERIENCED:

DOE (b)(3)

[redacted]

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

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1 - Action
2 - Information
3 - See Me
4 - File
5 - Destroy

Here's a fairly complete history of the nuc wph lightning problem over seven years. Not overwhelmingly frightening, is it.

Del

1650 Date 3/21/69 Code

✓	JONES	
✓	SPRAY	
1.	Action	
2.	Comment	
3.	Information	✓
4.	File	
5.	Destroy	
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LIGHTNING/NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENT
AND INCIDENT REPORTED BY FC/DASA
IN THE PERIOD FROM EARLY 1961 TO
FEBRUARY 1968 (U)

7231

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MISSILE SUMMARY

Carrier	No. of Strikes	WH Not Damaged	WH Damaged	Remarks
JUPITER	1			
	1			
	1			
	1			
ATLAS	Several			Missile damaged
	1			Missile damaged
	1			
	1			
MACE	1			Missiles damaged
	1			Missiles damaged
	1			Missiles Damaged

DCWA (b)(1) (b)(3)

DCWA (b)(1) (b)(3)

DECLASSIFIED

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AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

Carrier	No. of Strikes	WH Not Damaged	WH Damaged	Remarks
C124	1	5 ea in flight		Aircraft damaged
	1	8 ea & 1 ea in flight		
	1	7 ea on ground		
	1	in flight		
B47	1	1 ea on ground		Aircraft damaged
B52	1	& in flight		
	1	& in flight		
	1	2 ea & 2 ea		in HOUND DOGS Aircraft damaged

1 5 (b)(1)
(b)(1)
(b)(1)

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SWA
b)(1)
b)(3)

DOE b(3)

(b)(3)

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86

Field Command
Defense Atomic Support Agency
Sandia Base
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Attention: Director, FCSM

Subject: WEAPON DEBRIS FROM THULE ACCIDENT RETURNED TO AEC

Gentlemen:

I trust this information is adequate for you to process a Report of as required by TP 5-6.

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed by
W. Lee Hancock
W. Lee Hancock
Assistant Manager for Operati

06 86-137 7/7A LTR

Enclosure:
Identified Bomb Debris from Thule,
SRD, 2 pages

Group 1 - Excluded F
Downgrading and Dec

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	Operational Safety Div.				A/M Opn
SURNAME ▶	Smith:by	Kay	Dugger	Burke	Hancock
DATE ▶	6/14/68	6/14/68	6/14/68	6/14/68	6/14/68

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IDENTIFIED BOMB DEBRIS FROM THULE

DOE (b)(3)

Component	W/H(Bomb) (upper left) Serial No.	Recovered	W/H(Bomb) (upper right) Serial No.	Recovered	W/H(Bomb) (lower left) Serial No.	Recovered	W/H(Bomb) (lower right) Serial No.	Recovered
DOE (b)(3)								
DOE (b)(3)								
II Fuze		No		No		No		No
A.		Portion		No		No		No
III Shape Components								
A. Parachute pack								
1. 4 ft. pilot		No		No		Yes		No
2. 16½ ft. 1st. stage		No		No		Yes		Yes
3. 5 ft. pilot		No		Yes		Yes		No
6¼ ft. main		No		Yes		Yes		No
4. 30 in. drag		No		No		No		No
B. Closing Plate								Most

DOE (b)(3)

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February 26, 1968
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To: Distribution

From: J. G. Marsh - 3414

Re: Classification Guidance, Greenland B-52/Weapons Accident (U)

The AEC Division of Classification, Washington, has issued the following classification guidance for use in dealing with information about the recent crash of the B-52 bomber with nuclear weapons aboard near Thule AFB, Greenland:

DOE b(2)

DOE (b)(3)

DOE (b)(3)

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Please refer any questions not covered by this guidance to the Classification Division.

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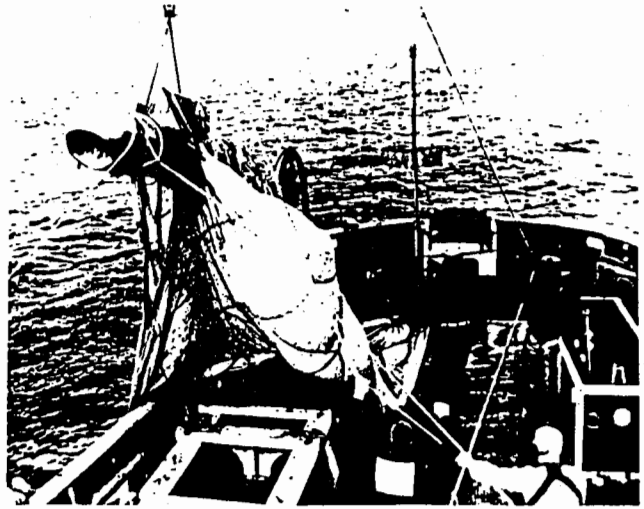

B-52 Incident
Palomares, Spain
January 1966

B-52G with 4 B28FI bombs suffered mid-air collision with KC-135 tanker. Both aircraft broke up in air. All bombs came free of bomb bay, falling in freefall, partially retarded, and fully retarded configurations. Two freefall bombs underwent HE detonation at impact. On partially retarded and fully retarded bombs pullout rods were extracted as bombs tore free of aircraft, and safe separation timers were started.

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NAME: Adam R. Hornbuehl
2ND REVIEW-DATE: 7/16/98
AUTHORITY: ADD
NAME: R R Schmidt

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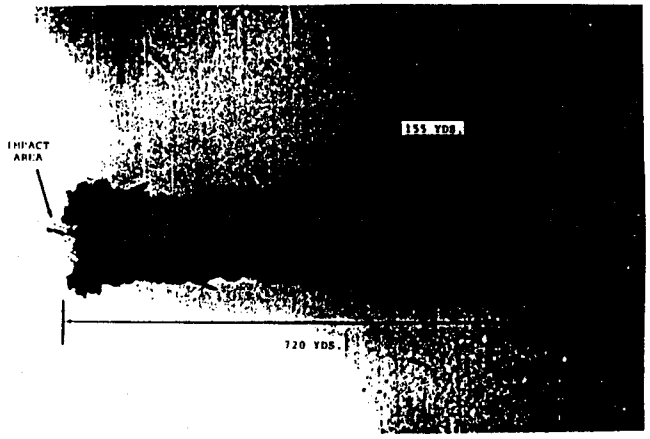

B-52 Incident
Thule, Greenland
January 1968

Crew bailed out. Aircraft made wide turn and crashed on a frozen bay west of Thule AFB. Crash resulted in complete destruction of B-52 and the four bombs. Contamination from the weapons was confined to the ice on the bay.

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