

UNIQUE DOCUMENT # SAC200118890000

March 29, 1966

To: G. A. Fowler - 9000

Thru: A. Y. Pope - 9300

Original Signed By
R. C. MAYDEW

Original Signed By
W. R. BARTON

From: R. C. Maydew, 9320, and W. R. Barton, 9324

Re: Chronological Summary of Significant Events in the 9300
Participation in Broken Arrow Operation

January 17 (Monday): B-52 and C-135 collided over Palomares, Spain during CHROME-DOME operation (refueling) at 0922 Zulu time.

January 22 (Saturday): Hon. W. J. Howard, OSD, called A. Y. Pope and requested ballistic assistance in locating missing unit no. 4.

January 24 (Monday): S. McAlees briefed Adm. L. V. Swanson, USN, Dr. John Craven, USN, Major Gen. W. P. Swanutt, USAF, Hon. W. J. Howard, OSD, and others on the results of 9300 trajectory calculations. The over-sea release point and a sea search area determined from these calculations were later discovered to be incorrect because of wrong information received from Palomares on aircraft heading and drogue condition of the three recovered units.

January 27 (Thursday): Major Gen. D. Wilson requested A. Y. Pope or R. C. Maydew proceed post haste to Palomares to aid in ballistic studies.

January 29 (Saturday): R. C. Maydew arrived at Palomares, Spain.

January 30 (Sunday): Messrs. R. Bachman (Wright-Patterson AFB) and M. Bennett and D. Campbell (Eglin AFB) arrived in Palomares, Spain to aid in systems study of accident.

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BY: J.E. Greening (IDR, NN-523)
DATE: 5/24/99

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- February 5 (Saturday): Completed systems analysis team (SAT) study of aircraft collision point (over-land) and subsequent breakup, conditions and time of release of four weapons and three possible solutions for location of number 4 and/or parts thereof. R. C. Maydew briefed separately Gen. Wilson and Adm. Guest (CTF-65) and their staffs on results of the SAT study [recommended strongly to Adm. Guest that the Navy search in the area (α-1) where the parachute and object impacted per the sighting of Senor Sino Orts].
- February 7 (Monday): R. C. Maydew briefed Major Gen. Donovan, Joint Military Advisory Group, Paris, and Minister Wilson, U.S. Embassy, Madrid, on the results of the SAT study. The SAT study (dated February 7) was published and distributed.
- February 11 (Friday): R. C. Maydew briefed Col. R. Ray, OSD (Howard's Office), in NYC on SAT study and status of search operation.
- February 13 (Sunday): W. H. Caudle conducted Operation Sunday at White Sands to determine crater size and appearance, caused by an impacting secondary, to aid 16th AF in ground search operations.
- February 16 (Tuesday): W. R. Barton arrived in Palcaares, Spain and worked with S. A. Moore, 1540, and P. H. Schneider, AEC (ALOO) on additional systems studies. In addition to these studies, the Air Force requested that AEC, Sandia or LASL personnel inspect each crater, wall, and mine to check for location of the no. 4 secondary (assuming SAT solution no. one). Additional confirmation of Senor Sino Orts sea-impact sighting was obtained from two other witnesses. Results of intensive ground search, re-examination of α contamination patterns, and additional trajectory analysis strongly indicated that SAT solution number 3 (intact weapon at sea) was the most probable. An addendum to the SAT study (dated March 4) was published and distributed.
- February 23 (Monday): W. R. Barton briefed General Wilson and staff on the results of the systems study (addendum to SAT report).

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March 1 (Tuesday):

W. R. Barton briefed Adm. Guest and staff on the results of the systems study and reaffirmed the prime sea search area (a-1).

March 8 (Tuesday):

A briefing team consisting of W. R. Barton, 9324, S. A. Moore, 1540, and P. H. Schneider, AEC, proceeded to Washington, D.C. W. R. Barton briefed on the results of the entire search operations (including review of SAT study and new systems studies) for Hon. W. J. Howard, OSD, Major Gen. W. P. Swancutt, USAF, Adm. L. V. Swanson, USN, Mr. Scott George, State Department, AEC officials and others at the Pentagon. S. A. Moore discussed the results of the ground search and how these results affected the probability of the three assumed SAT solutions. He also covered the structural integrity of the weapon. P. H. Schneider discussed the decontamination procedures and subsequent removal of contaminated earth from the accident site. This briefing was given again later in the day to Gen. W. H. Blanchard, Vice Chief of Air Force.

March 9 (Wednesday):

The March 8th briefing was again presented at SAC Headquarters, Omaha, to Gen. J. D. Ryan, Commander in Chief, Lt. Gen. J. J. Nazzaro, Vice Commander, and the SAC General Staff and others. (See March 17 trip report of W. R. Barton to A. Y. Pope for complete list of attendees for March 8 & 9 briefings.)

March 16 (Wednesday):

R. C. Maydew briefed the Search Evaluation Board (also served as alternate board member representing AEC) on the results of the SAT study and the later systems analysis studies of Messrs. Barton, Moore and Schneider. Members of the board consisted of Dr. Sproul, Chairman, Cornell Univ., Dr. M. Roy, LASL, Hon. W. J. Howard, OSD, Lt. Gen. Donnelly, DASA, Major Gen. McPherson, JCS, Major Gen. Kinney, CSAF, Adm. Swanson, USN, Mr. S. George, State Department, and two CIA representatives. The Search Evaluation Board was convened at the request of Hon. C. Vance, Deputy Secretary of Defense.

March 16 (Wednesday):

The Alvin located the missing number 4 weapon at a depth of 2550 feet in the southeastern part of the a-1 search area. This was approximately 3600 feet from the final coordinates provided to the Navy by

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9300 representatives. These coordinates were arrived at by assuming the center of the 9-1 search as the surface impact point and computing underwater trajectories using data on the sea currents provided by the Navy.

Acknowledgments

Messrs. Forsythe (trajectory calculations), Feltz (sketches and maps), Holt (parachute system), and Candler (earth penetration) provided valuable assistance to the 9300 participation in the Broken Arrow Operation.

Organization 9400 was very cooperative in making available IBM-7000 and CDC-3600 computing time as needed for trajectory calculations. The penetration tests at White Sands were conducted on very short time scales by G. L. Miller, 7823.

Messrs. Moore, Hoagland, Reed and Asselin of Organization 1540 actively participated in aiding the 15th AF in the Broken Arrow Operation. Details of their participation are not included in this report. Their aid to the 9300 participation is gratefully acknowledged.

RCM/WFB:dg

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