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HISTORY OF THE CUSTODY AND DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (U) JULY 1945 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1977



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ATOMIC ENERGY) FEBRUARY 1978

Obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by Robert S. Norris

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SUBJECT: History of the Custody and Deployment of Nuclear Weapons

Attached is an update to the subject document that was originally transmitted by the ATSD(AE) on 7 April 1976. It contains a narrative of developments and updates of appendices and maps for Fiscal Years 1976 and 1977. A list of page substitutions is also provided.

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Milton E. Key

Major General, USA

Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy)

Attachments

- 1. List of Page Substitutions (Unclas)
- 2. History Update (TSRD)

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HISTORY

OF THE

CUSTODY AND DEPLOYMENT

OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (U)

JULY 1945 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1977

Prepared By

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

OF DEFENSE (ATOMIC ENERGY)

February 1978

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PREFACE

- (U) This history provides the reader with a basic understanding of how we arrived at our present posture in nuclear weapons in order that he may be better able to cope with the problems of the future. It traces the evolution of the custody, deployment authorizations, and dispersals of nuclear weapons from July 1945 through September 1977. It illustrates, as factually as possible within data collection sources, the development of, and statistical data associated with, the United States nuclear force.
- (U) The material was derived from the records of the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy), the Joint Staff and the Defense Nuclear Agency. Every effort was made to reconcile disparities in numbers; however, due to different accounting procedures particularly prior to 1961, there are some minor conflicts pertaining to individual totals by weapon authoritative accounts of the Defense Nuclear Agency and the Energy Research and Development Administration (now Department of Energy).
- (U) Many of the key individuals who were intimately involved in the policy discussions and decisions are no longer available to provide a first-hand account of the happenings. It was therefore necessary to borrow liberally from many sources, most of whom are identified.
- (U) This history does not reflect the opinions or views of the Department of Defense.

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APPENDIX B

CHRONOLOGY

DEPLOYMENTS BY COUNTRY

CY 1951 - 1977

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CHRONOLOGY

DEPLOYMENTS BY COUNTRY (U)

COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
Alaska	Nonnuclear Bomb Bomb Genie	Nov 55 Jan 56 Sep 57	Jun 67 Jun 75 Sep 60
	Depth Bomb ADM Falcon 155mm Howitzer Nike Hercules	Jul 58 Jan-Mar 61 Apr-Jun 61 Feb 67 Jan-Mar 70	Jun 70 Jun 70 Jun 75
	Nonnuclear Bomb Bomarc Genie Falcon Depth Bomb	Jul-Der 50 Jan-Mar 64 May 65 Jul 65 Feb 68	Jun 71 Jun 72 Dec 66
	Bomb Regulus Talos	Feb 56 Mar-May 56 Oct-Dec 64	Jun 70 Mar-May 56 Oct-Dec 64 Dec 65
Cuba	Nonnuclear Depth Bomb Bomb Nike Hercules	Dec 61 Feb 58 Nov 59	Jul-Sep 63 Oct-Dec 58 Jul 65
Guam	Nonnuclear Bomb Bomb Depth Bomb Regulus Nike Hercules	Jul 50 Jun 51 Jun-Aug 57 Sep-Nov 57 Jun 61	Apr-Jun 64 Jun 69
	Boar Hotpoint Lacrosse Little John Honest John ADM Davy Crockett 8-inch Howitzer	Jan-Mar 62 Jan-Mar 62 Apr-Jun 62 Apr-Jun 62 Apr-Jun 62 Apr-Jun 64 Jan 65 Jun 65	Apr-Jun 63 Oct-Dec 64 Oct-Dec 63 Jun 69

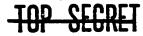
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F.			
COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
Guam (cont.)	Talos	Jul 65	Jun 69
•	Astor	Nov 65	Mar 74
	ASROC	Jan 66	riai /4
	Terrier	Mar 66	1 67
	155mm Howitzer	May 66	Jan 67
	Polaris	Jul 66	
	Nike Hercules		Aug 66
	wike descuses	Jun 68	Jun 69
Hawaii	Bomb	Jul 54	Jun 69
	Depth Bomb	Dec 55-Feb 56	
	Regulus	Mar-May 56	Jan-Mar 65
	Boar	Sep-Nov 56	Apr-Jun 63
•	Honest John	Jun-Aug 57	Jun 75
	8-inch Howitzer	Oct-Dec 58	Jun 72
•	ADM	Jan-Mar 59	Jun 75
	Hotpoint	Jan-Mar 60	Oct-Dec 64
	Nike Hercules	Jul-Sep 60	Jun 73
	Little John	Apr-Jun 62	Oct 68
	Talos	Oct-Dec 63	Aug 68
	ASROC	Oct-Dec 63	rug oo
	Astor	Apr-Jun 64	
	Davy Crockett	Apr-Jun 64	T 60
	155mm Howitzer	Oct-Dec 64	Jun 69
•	Terrier		Jun 75
	Subroc	Mar 65	Sep 66
	Falcon	Aug 65	
	raicon	May 66	Jun 67
	Nonnuclear Bomb	Feb 56	Jun 66
	Bomb	Sep 56	Sep-Dec 59
		•	
	Nonnuclear Bomb	Dec 54-Feb 55	Jun 65
Johnston Is.	Thor	Jul-Sep 64	Jun 71
	Nike Zeus	Jul-Dec 63	Jul 66
Midway	Depth Bomb	Jul 61	Jun 65
	Nonnuclear Bomb	Jul-Sep 53	Jun 65
	Bomb /	May 54	Sep 63
.—	Depth Bomb	Sep-Nov 57	Mar 61

B-3



COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
	Nonnuclear Bomb	Jul 54	Jun 67
1	Bomb	Dec 54-Feb 55	Jun 72
	280mm gun	Dec 55-Feb 56	Jun 60
• .	8-inch Howitzer	Jun-Aug 57	Jun 72
	Matador	Sep-Nov 57	Dec 60
	Depth Bomb	Dec 57-Feb 58	Jun 72
	ADM	Feb-May 58	Jun 72
	Honest John	Dec 57-Feb 58	Jun 72
	Nike Hercules	Jan-Mar 59	Jun 72
	Corporal	Mar 60	Jun 65
	Hotpoint	Jul-Sep 60	Dec 60
	Lacrosse	Oct-Dec 60	Dec 63
	Mace ⁻	Apr-Jun 61	Jun. 70
	Falcon	Jul-Sep 61	Jun 72
	Little John	Apr-Jun 62	Dec 68
	Asroc	Jan-Mar 63	Apr 66
	Terrier	Jan-Mar 64	Jun 64
	Davy Crockett	Apr-Jun 64	Dec 68
Philippines	155mm Howitzer	May 66	Jun 72
	Bomb	Dec 57	Jun 77
	Depth Bomb	Dec 57	Jun 74
	Hotpoint	Jan-Mar 61	Sep 61
	Falcon	Apr-Jun 62	Jun 71
	Terrier	Feb 65	Jun 67
	Asroc	Mar 65	Jun 74
	Talos	Jul 65	Jun 74
Puerto Rico	Bomb	Jun 56	Jun 72
	Depth Bomb	Apr-Jun 61	Jun 75
	Honest John	Jan 58	
	280mm gun	Jan 58	Jun 62
(Couth Koroa)	8-inch Howitzer	Jan 58	
(South Korea)	ADM	Jan 58	
	Bomb	Mar 58	•
	Lacrosse	Jul-Sep 60	Dec 63
	Nike Hercules	Jan-Mar 61	
•	Davy Crockett	Jul-Sep 62	Jun 68
	Sergeant	Jul-Sep 63	-
	155mm Howitzer	Oct-Dec 64	
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COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
	Bomb	Mar 58	Jun 65
	Depth Bomb Falcon	Oct-Dec 59 Apr-Jun 62	Jul 76 Jun 64
•	Asroc Talos	Aug 65 Oct 68	Nov 65 Nov 68
	Matador /	Jan 58	Jun 62
	Bomb	Jan-Mar 60	Jul 74

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CHRONOLOGY

DEPLOYMENTS BY COUNTRY (U)

NATO EUROPE

COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
	Bomb	Nov 63	
	Nonnuclear Bomb	Aug 58	Jan-Mar 60
	Bomb	Oct 60	
	Honest John	Dec 61	
	8-inch Howitzer	Apr-Jun 62	
	Nike Hercules	Oct-Dec 63	
	Bomb	Apr 57	
	Corporal	Aug 56	Sep 64
	Honest John	Aug 56	Jun 76
	ADM	Jan-Mar 59	
	Jupiter	Jun 60	Jun 63
	Nike Hercules	Oct-Dec 60	
	8-inch Howitzer	Jan-Mar 64	
	Sergeant	Jan-Mar 64	Jun 76
	Lance Depth Bomb	Jan-Feb 76 Jan-Mar 72	
	Bomb	Apr 60	
	Honest John	Jun 61	
	8-inch Howitzer	Oct-Dec 62	
	Bomb	Feb 59	
••	Honest John	May 59	
	Jupiter	Oct 61	Jun 63
	8-inch Howitzer	Jun 65	_
United	Bomb	Sep-Nov 54	
Kingdom	THOR (Strat)	Oct-Dec 58	Sep 63
	Depth Bomb	Jan 68	
West Germany	Bomb	Mar-May 55	
	Matador	Apr 55	Sep 62
	280mm gun	Apr 55	Dec 60
	Honest John	May 55	

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COUNTRY	WEAPON	INITIAL ENTRY	WITHDRAWN
	—		
West Germany	Corporal	Jun-Aug 55	Mar 67
(cont.)	8-inch Howitzer	Mar-May 56	
	ADM	Mar-May 57	
	Redstone	May-Sep 58	Jun 64
	Nike Hercules	Apr-Jun 59	
	Mace	Oct-Dec 59	Jun 69
	Lacrosse	Apr-Jun 60	Dec 63
	Falcon	Jul-Sep 61	Jun 70
	Davy Crockett	Oct-Dec 61	Aug 67
	Bullpup (ASM)	Jul-Sep 62	Sep 63
_	Sergeant	Apr-Jun 63	•
	Pershing	Apr-Jun 64	
	155mm Howitzer	Feb 65	
	Walleye	Jun 72	
Y	Lance/	Jan-Mar 74	