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BACKGROUND PAPER  
ON  
WHY THE B61-11 IS BEING DEVELOPED

Obtained Under the  
Freedom of Information Act  
by Hans M. Kristensen

-- (U) B53 oldest weapon in inventory -- while safe, it nevertheless has none of the modern safety features used in newer systems

-- (U) Project not submitted to the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) for approval due to ASD(ISP) concerns that Congress would not support it

-- (U) Decision made to place on hold pending validation of the target set requiring the B53 during the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)

- (U) Nov 94 - Congressional election changes committee chairmanships -- ASD(ISP) re-energizes project with a strong recommendation that the effort be completed before Congress changes again

Maj Selva for Lt Col Mullins/SAF/AQQS(N)/693-6303/kl/22.Sep 95

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-- (U) Proposed design requires B-2 flight testing, which when staffed through AF, is not considered supportable: cannot complete program within desired time frame (by next election), regardless, would require "bumping" already programmed conventional munition flight testing and necessarily extend the B-2 flight test program beyond current completion date in FY 2000, at an estimated cost of \$50M

(U/S) Negotiated design, sanctioned by HQ USAF, is a B61-11 with identical flight characteristics as the existing B61-7 ("a duck")

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- (U/S) Feb 95 - Concept staffed, and the NWC approves it and requires the appropriate congressional committee members be briefed of the NWC decision (Tab 5)

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- (U) Apr 95 - DOE and ATSD(AE) begin visits to congressional staffers

-- (U) Staffers for House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriation Subcommittees, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the House National Security Committee briefed

-- (U) AF work on the B61-11 from Jan 94 to Jul 95 limited to staffing through to the NWC, and AF/XORC placing a \$5.2M funding wedge in the FY97 POM for B-52 flight tests

- (U) Jul 95 - DOE receives congressional committee letters approving the FY 95 reprogramming action for the B61-11 effort (Tab 6)

- (U) Jul 95 - ATSD(AE), as NWC Executive Secretary, requests the AF task the B61 Project Officers Group (POG) to implement the project and return in 90 days with program status and milestones -- briefing scheduled for 15 Nov 95 (Tab 7)

- (U/S) Jul 95 - SAF/AQQ tasks B61 Project Officers Group (POG) to initiate development effort for a modified B61-7, to be called the B61-11 (Tab 8): the Lead Project Officer to brief NWCSSC on program schedule with milestones in 90 days (scheduled for 15 Nov) to obtain final go ahead

-- (U) The major issue is limiting impact to the B-2 program

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- (U) Mid-Oct - B61-11 program and milestones due to AQQ for AF coordination

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