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WTJenkins/id/1&5

In reply refer to  
ASESB 482-58/5-

13 June 1958

SUBJECT: Tests of Nike-Hercules Underground Magazine

TO: Chief of Ordnance  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. A special meeting of the Board was held at 1000 hours on 12 June 1958, at the oral request of the Army Alternate Member, Mr. J. A. Bailey, to review proposed tests in connection with the Nike-Hercules underground storage complex. The concept for the tests was explained by the Army representatives in considerable detail, including reasons why other alternate or simulated tests would not give the required information.

2. After the presentation and subsequent discussions, Board Members were requested to vote on the following question:

"Will this test, as proposed by Ordnance, give adequate information on the relative safety or hazard of the box with six Nike-Hercules missiles in the belowground position?"

Board Members voted unanimously in the affirmative.

3. In forwarding the results of the meeting, it is emphasized that:

a. At the time of the initial analysis of the Nike plans by the Staff, it was stated that the Nike in the aboveground position should be considered since "an explosion or detonation could occur while a missile is aboveground in its firing position." The tests as planned will give little or no information on this condition.

b. Subsequent requests for Staff analyses were on the basis that 25,000 pounds of high explosives would be subject to mass detonation. The Staff does not feel that this will be the case.

c. The Board and Staff did not participate in setting up the proposed tests, but rather, passed on the adequacy of the tests as outlined at the meeting.

d. Damage results to be obtained from these proposed tests apply only to structures.

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
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h. Board Members at this special meeting, felt that it was not in order for them to pass on the possibility of other simplified or simulated tests being performed to obtain the required information unless the Board was requested to do so and was given more specific details by separate correspondence.

FOR THE ARMED SERVICES EXPLOSIVES SAFETY BOARD:

SIGNED

W. T. JENKINS  
Captain, USN  
Chairman

cc: OASA (L/O)  
DCS/LCO  
Chief, AFSPF  
Army Member, ASESB  
Navy Member, ASESB  
Air Force Member, ASESB



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