

Chaz No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-38-1-7-1  
MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION  
August 13, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER  
FROM: PHIL ODEEN *PO*  
SUBJECT: Safety Rules for Minuteman III Test Launch

*AK*

In accordance with NSDM 96, Secretary Clements has forwarded to the President (Tab A) notification of a significant change in safety rules to be used for the GLORY TRIP launch of a Minuteman III from Vandenberg AFB by an airborne launch control center (ALCC).

Normally such a launch would, as part of its safety rules, use frequencies, tones and codes that are completely different than operational ones in use or that have been in use to avoid possibility of accidental launch. In the GLORY TRIP test, actual but outdated elements will be used as a check on any possible complication that might arise from the use of these actual elements. Appropriate safety measures have been directed to avoid accidental launch of operational missiles.

OSD REVIEWED 15-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

DOS REVIEWED 16 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

AUG 9 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Final Approval of Safety Rules for GLORY TRIP 43GM  
Minuteman III Test Launch

During the week of 20 August 1973, the Air Force will launch a single Minuteman III missile, without a nuclear warhead and controlled by an Airborne Launch Control Center (ALCC), from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. This launch will be similar to many other launch tests conducted at Vandenberg except that operational frequencies and address tones and outdated operational codes will be used instead of excluded codes and test frequencies. Following coordination with the Atomic Energy Commission, I approved the supplemental safety rules to be observed during the test.

The GLORY TRIP 43GM test will be used to confirm the reliability of the missile, the ALCC, and the operational frequencies and outdated operational codes. Every practicable precaution has been taken to eliminate the possibility of interference with operational missile sites.

Used in conjunction with existing safety rules for the Minuteman weapon systems, the attached supplemental rules provide maximum assurance of safety.

*H. P. Clement*

Attachment  
Safety Rules Annex

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**APPENDIX**

**SAFETY RULES TO BE OBSERVED DURING**  
**GLORY TRIP 43GM TEST**

**Appendix**

APPENDIX

SAFETY RULES TO BE OBSERVED DURING  
GLORY TRIP 43GM TEST

1. APPLICABILITY. The following safety rules are mandatory for use and are valid only during the special test of Glory Trip 43GM to be conducted at Vandenberg AFB, California. This special test will only be conducted when directed by CINCSAC. When used with the Safety Rules for the WS-133A (Minuteman I) Weapon System, AFR 122-63; Safety Rules for the WS-133A-M and WS-133B (Minuteman II) Weapon Systems, AFR 122-30; Safety Rules for the WS-133A-M and WS-133B Weapon Systems with the LGM-30G (Minuteman III) Missile and the Mk 12 Reentry System Utilizing the W62 Warhead, AFR 122-31; and the Safety Rules for the Airborne Launch Control System, AFR 122-32, these rules are designed to provide positive measures to:

a. Prevent weapons involved in accidents or incidents from producing a nuclear yield.

b. Prevent deliberate arming, launching, firing, or releasing, except upon execution of emergency war orders or when directed by competent authority.

c. Prevent inadvertent arming, launching, firing, or releasing.

d. Insure adequate security.

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2. SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES. The following rules, in conjunction with the approved safety rules for the WS-133A (Minuteman I) Weapon System, AFR 122-63; Safety Rules for the WS-133A-M and WS-133B (Minuteman II) Weapon Systems, AFR 122-30; WS-133A-M and WS-133B Weapon Systems with the LGM-30G (Minuteman III) Missile and the Mk 12 Reentry System Utilizing the W62 Warhead, AFR 122-31; and the Airborne Launch Control System, AFR 122-32, will apply during the Glory Trip 43GM test only.

a. Reentry vehicles containing war reserve warheads will not be installed on the test missile.

b. Prior to sending any execute launch commands, the Airborne Launch Control Center (ALCC) will send an all-call enable command using the Wing III frequency and the Squadron III (742 Strat Msl Sq) address tones. All Minuteman sites will be polled to ensure nonreceipt of any ALCC indication. If any indications are received from any non-test launch facility (LF), the test will be suspended until the cause of the indication is determined and corrective action taken.

c. Current operational codes and Volatile Keying Assemblies (VKAs) will not be loaded aboard the test ALCC aircraft. Verification will be made that only the S-tape

with outdated operational codes and outdated VKAs will be brought aboard and used aboard the ALCC aircraft.

d. All LFs in the Minuteman fleet containing missiles in operational status that are in the ultra high frequency (UHF) mode or not showing status will have the safety control switch manually safed. The test will be delayed until Safing is complete.

e. The Infinite Hold "I" bit will be set in all Wing III Squadron III (742 Strat Msl Sq) LFs prior to and during the conduct of the test.

f. Administrative controls and procedures will be established to provide positive means to distinguish code tapes and P-plugs which contain outdated codes from those which contain operational codes. These controls and procedures will ensure that execute launch commands and enable command codes for this test are from outdated code blocks and have not been selected as current operational codes.

g. All P-plugs associated with the outdated codes will be removed prior to the 1973 742 Strat Msl Sq code change.

h. Test master codes selected from the outdated code inventory, will be used by the code inserter verifier (CIV) when encoding test launch control panels, the launch

enable control group signal panels, and the code changer verifier. The same codes will be used in the missile command signals decoders and the guidance and control unit memories at the test LF. The test S-tape produced by the command code inserter verifier (CCIV) for the Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) aircraft, will utilize the same outdated codes and will be encrypted by an outdated keying variable.

i. All verification and certification required by the safety rules or technical orders will be accomplished and recorded by at least two persons.

j. The ALCS aircraft will transmit on the Wing III frequency only while at the Vandenberg AFB test location.

k. Deviations from the test configuration, frequencies, tones, and codes will not be authorized.

l. All outdated R-copy tapes from Wing III Squadron III except for the set used for the test will be destroyed prior to test initiation.

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