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Subject: U.S. Building new nukes

Posted by [sloppyme](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2005 08:41:44 GMT

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BlazerThat's nice if it explodes when its < 1000 feet off the ground, but what happens when there is a high altitude explosion and there is a load of plutonium etc aboard? It's the reason that we bury nuclear waste instead of shooting it into space...it's not worth the risk.

My knowledge of nukes is only what I learned from pushing them around while serving on subs. The latest nukes have been primarily neutron types that leave little radioactive debris and most buildings would still be intact after they detonate overhead. They don't have quite the blast effect of earlier bombs. However, the huge kill radius is a result of being toasted to a crisp or having too many cells in your body being ruptured from the overload of neutrons passing through. The farther away you are or how shielded you are determines your survivability. Neutrons particles can really penetrate. Infact, you have neutrons particles (& gamma) passing through your body whenever you expose yourself to the sun. If you spend too much time in high altitude aircraft, you are exposed to a lot more of them.

These weapons are harder to maintain because of a certain gas needed (I'm still not supposed to disclose what type but you can find it easy enough with a little research) to make them effective. These nukes have a shorter life span because this gas dissipates or changes chemically over time. The actual package of explosives & radioactive materials is about the size of a basketball. There is more conventional explosive material than radioactive material. The conventional explosive (like c-4) make up most of the container (sphere) that surrounds the plutonium with the special gas in the center. It is the even detonation of the surrounding c-4 like explosive to such perfection that causes the radioactive material to be pushed to the exact center to get the proper yield of the chain reaction that happens in an instant.

If this basketball sized core is somehow ripped out of a missile or whatever, it has lost all the timing triggers and electronics that detonate the inner core. So, if a missile should break apart in the sky, you have more to worry about chunks of plastic explosives landing on you than exposure to rad materials. Yes, the radioactive materials can harm you if you inhale or ingest them but they can be washed off so you can survive provided you do so in a timely manner.

Should core detonate because of re-entry friction or impact it would, at worst, only result in a partial yield. This, as it was told to me, would be quite difficult to achieve since any detonation without the proper or perfect timing sequence will most likely result of sending the radioactive elements & gas in different directions without any nuclear yield at all. The gas would dissipate and the chunks of rad material could be cleaned up and disposed of.

The burial of nuke waste is mainly to isolate and preserve the containers it is in. You have to remember that some of this stuff has a half life over 238 years. Some materials could be used to make the dirty type bombs so they need to be secure from theft. There may be an event of some sort that would compromise these containers on the surface; deep underground storage reduces the risk of breaching containment while providing greater security.

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