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To: "'Connie Nakahara'" <cnakahar@deq.state.ut.us>
Date: 7/20/99 4:19PM
Subject: Query

20 July 1999

Ms Nakahara

As I promised earlier, I am sending you the information that I have been able to discover today. As you will see, it does not yet answer all your questions. I am waiting for the cruise missile crash info, which is coming from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. That research should be complete sometime tomorrow, and when I receive it I'll forward it immediately to you.
The other information about the sortie numbers should be coming, as well. Again, I'll forward.
I apologize about the lateness of the response. I hope to get the other information to you in a more timely manner.
Thanks again for your patience.

Mary Enges-Maas

Cruise Missile Activities

Answer to question 1 (July 9, 1999 letter).

Cruise missile and advanced cruise missile activities do occur in the Sevier B MOA, according to Mr. James Bishop, cruise missile program manager, Hill AFB and UTTR. In fact, cruise missile exercises are flown in the Sevier A, B, C and D portions of the MOA.

Ingress to the UTTR is not the only use for the MOA. In fact, the cruise missile flights occur within the range, which obviates the need to ingress within it. The altitude and location varies, as the test flights are usually about five hours long and run several patterns through the airspace allowed. In every case, that airspace is "sanitized," in other words, all other flights are forbidden to enter the space that has been blocked. The missile flies within the range airspace boundaries (including Military Operating Areas) for approximately two to five hours. During this time, a terrain following profile might take the CM to 300 to 500 feet above ground level (AGL) in the MOAs and to 100 feet AGL in the restricted airspaces (RAs). After flight operations on the range, it will fly to its target, and simulate the detonation of its warhead.

Answer to question 3 (July 1, 1999 letter).

All cruise missile incidents or mishaps have not occurred within Department of Defense boundaries. The most recent incident of June 1999, occurred in the southern part of Sevier B area in the Military Operating Area (MOA) on Bureau of Land Management property and required liaison with BLM officials as to clean-up, etc.

Approximately 12-15 crashes have occurred during the span of the cruise missile program. The usual cause of the crashes has been a missile anomaly. The U.S. Air Force has never had to self-destruct a missile using the remote control flight termination system (RCFTS).

(More information about approximate dates, locations and causes of cruise missile mishaps will follow on Wednesday, 21 July 1999)

Answer to question 5 (July 1, 1999 letter).

(Expect answer to this question by Wednesday afternoon, 21 July 1999)

Other cruise missile information:

The CMs tested at the UTTR are the AGM-86B Air Launched CM (ALCM), AGM-86C Conventional Air Launched CM (CALCM), and AGM-129 Advanced CM (ACM). Though the CALCM is tested with a live warhead, no nuclear devices are carried by the missiles being tested at the UTTR.

The missile is normally launched over DoD lands, west of Granite Mountain, and impacts at the Parkersville target complex, about five miles northwest of Wig Mountain. Other CMs with inert warheads may impact at the Sand Island target complex.