

21/10/60



~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS  
OGDEN AIR MATERIEL AREA  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
Hill Air Force Base, Utah

12 December 1960

OCAMA AIRMUNITIONS LETTER  
NO. 136-11-56E

SUBJECT: Advance Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technical Information

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

AUTHORITY: This AML is published under the authority of and in compliance with AFR 136-10.

(U) SUMMARY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INCIDENTS (AF FORM 105B)  
AND RELATED PROBLEMS OCTOBER 1960

~~EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION~~  
~~PROGRAMS~~

~~ARMING~~

~~This document must be given limited distribution~~  
~~and is for the exclusive use of qualified ex-~~  
~~posed Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personnel~~

#127

-----  
~~This document contains information affecting the national defense of~~  
~~the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18,~~  
~~USC Sections 793 and 794. The transmission or the revelation of its~~  
~~contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~  
~~Information is not releasable to foreign nationals.~~

~~RESTRICTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 12065~~

~~SECRET~~

~~10~~  
~~9/11~~  
~~10/11~~

~~SECRET~~

AIRMUNITIONS LTR 136-11-56E  
Page 2 of 10

1. The purpose of this Airmunitions Letter is to present a periodic summary of incidents wherein nuclear weapons were involved, and to provide a resume of the methods and procedures used by EOD personnel involved at each incident.

2. This summary includes two incidents reported during the month of October 1960. The incidents will be referred to as NWI-60-3 and NWI-60-4.

NWI-60-3.

1. Location.

Physical location of a higher classification.

2. Date.

October 1960.

3. Type of Incident.

4. Brief.

The EOD Detachment was called by the TOF Area for assistance. An incident had occurred at the strike aircraft area. Upon arrival of EOD personnel at the strike aircraft it was learned that during the downloading of a Mk 28 Weapon from the aircraft,

Examination of the weapon and a review of the sequence of events indicated that no aircraft power had been applied to the weapon. A further review of applicable publications verified the SAFE status of the weapon. Weapon was released to the TOF area and placed in segregated storage.

5. Unusual Problems.

None.

6. Contamination.

None.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED DATA - ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954~~  
AIRMUNITIONS LTR 136-11-56E  
Page 3 of 10

NWI-60-4.

1. Location.

Physical location of higher classification.

2. Date.

October 1960.

3. Type of Incident.

A Nose Cone (with warhead) and Aft Section were accidentally separated from a SM-78 (Jupiter) missile while on a launch site. The missile was in a horizontal position at the time of the accident. (See Figures 1 through 6).

4. Brief.

EOD personnel were called to the missile site of a SM-78 (Jupiter) Missile and upon arrival found the missile in the horizontal position. The Nose Cone (containing the warhead) and Aft Sections had been blown free of the missile by three explosive bolts. Three explosive bolts had been connected electrically on the left side of the missile and had detonated. The three bolts on the right side were not connected electrically and had not detonated. Separation of the Aft Section and Nose Cone had caused them to drop approximately six (6) feet. EOD personnel monitored for Tritium with negative findings. The warhead was electrically disconnected and examined for indications of damage. No visible indications of damage were present. Examination of the three explosive bolts that had not detonated revealed that one had broken open, exposing the high explosive. The other two had bent to the breaking point but had not broken open. The bolts were removed by hand to be destroyed at a later time. The Vernier Engine, Arming Unit and Primacord assembly were removed. The Nose Cone with the warhead was turned over to Special Weapons Branch personnel. The Nose Cone received slight external damage. The Aft Section received extensive damage as indicated in Figures 1 through 6.

~~RESTRICTED DATA - ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

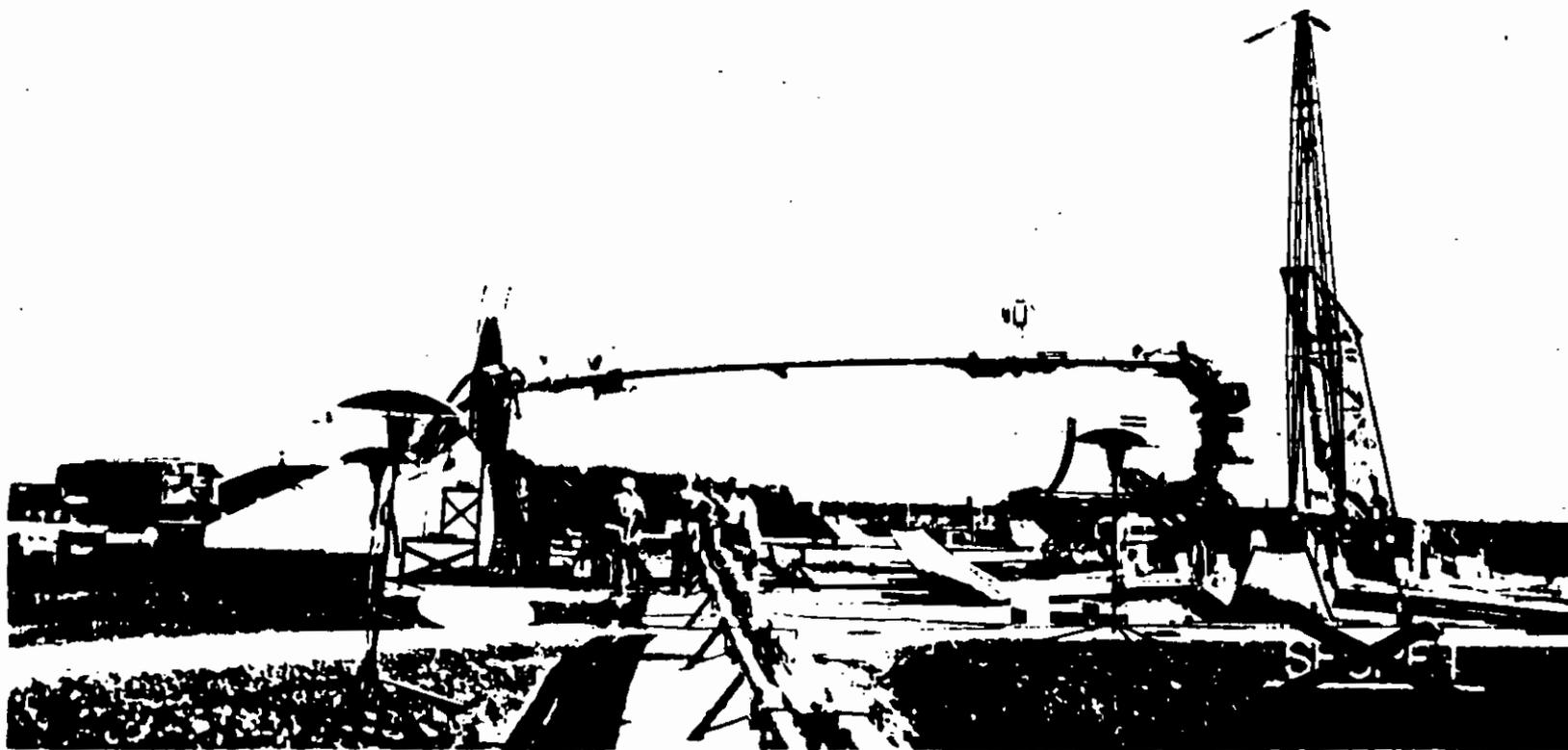


FIGURE 1.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

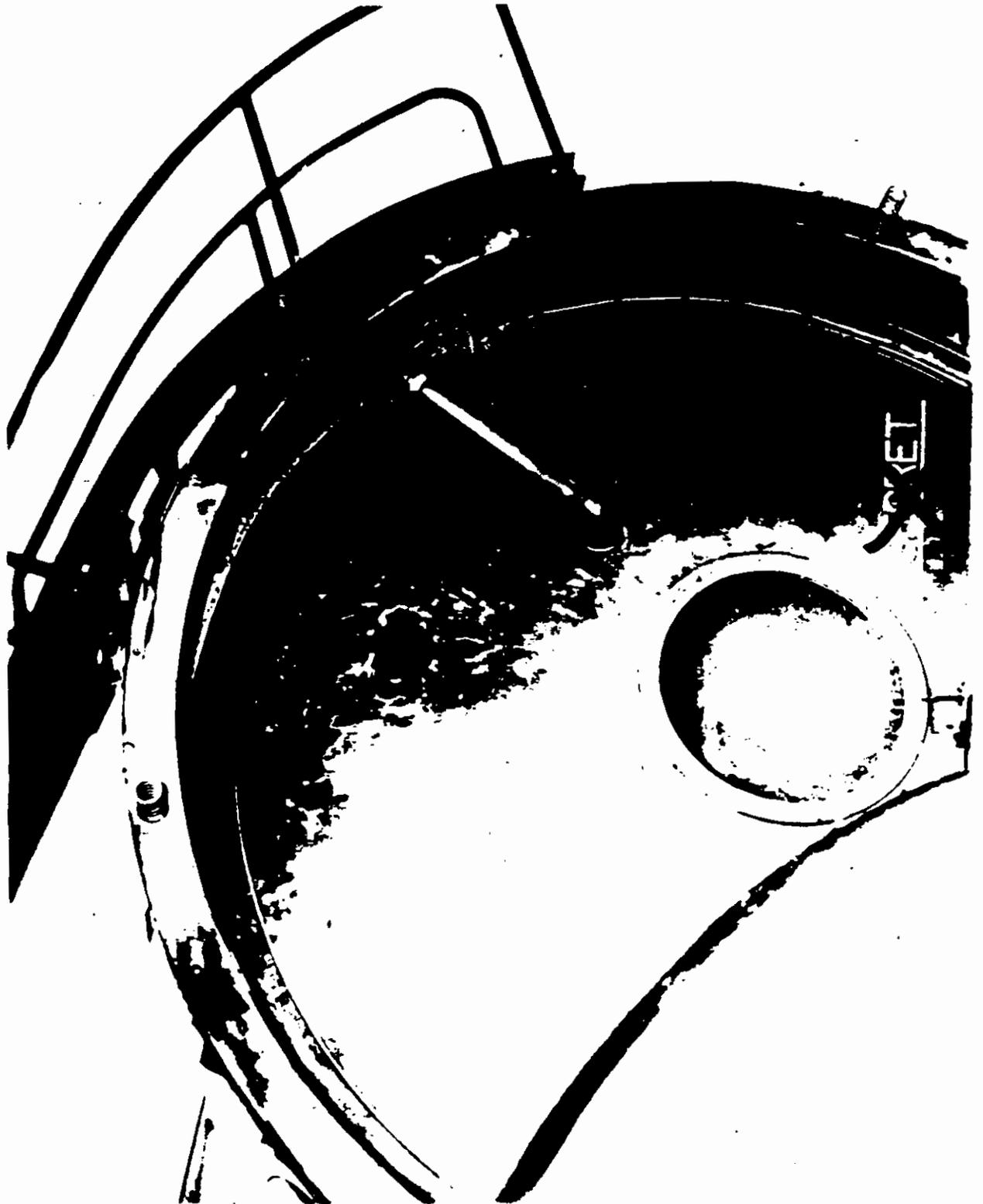


FIGURE 2.

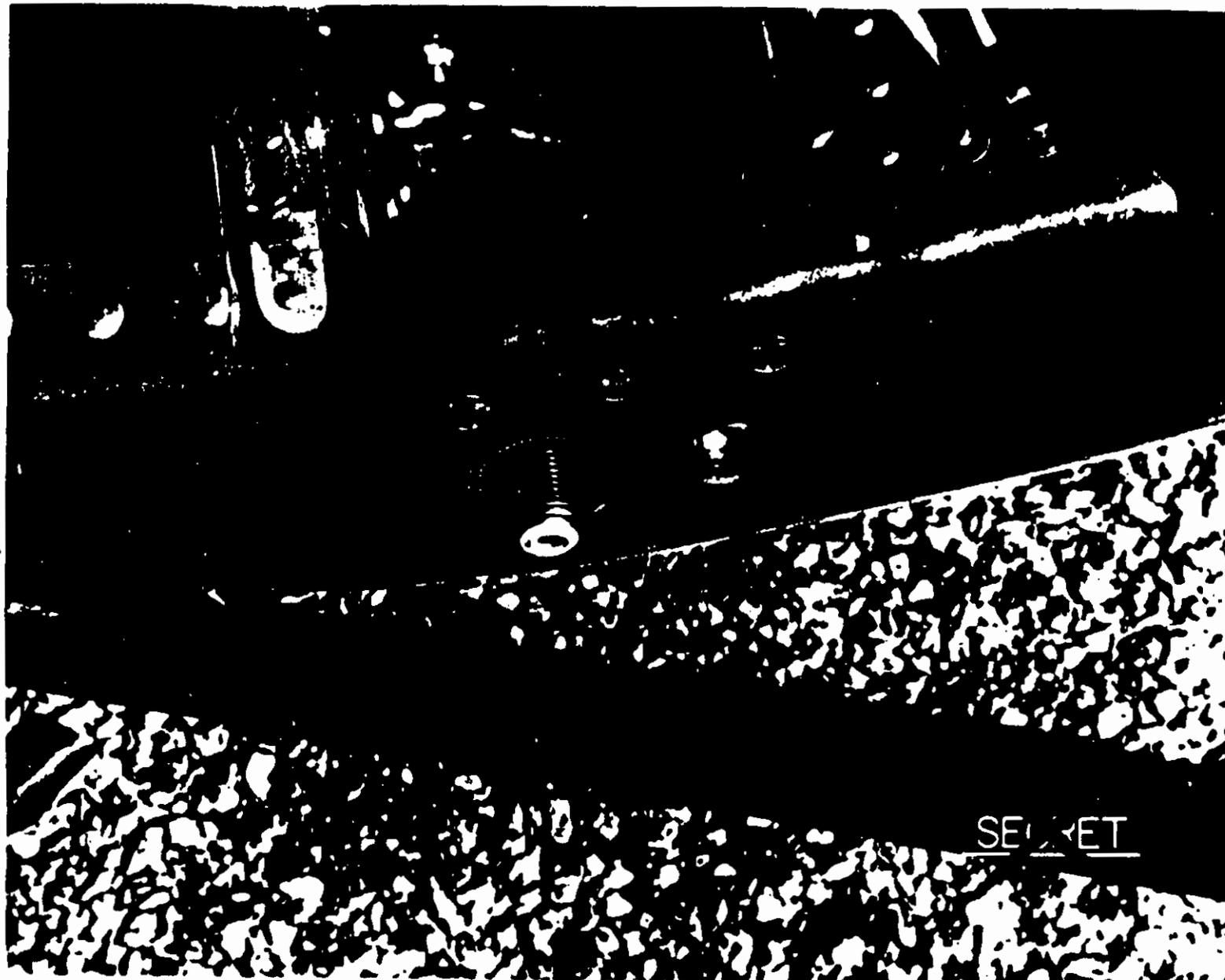


FIGURE 3.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

~~SECRET~~



SECRET

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

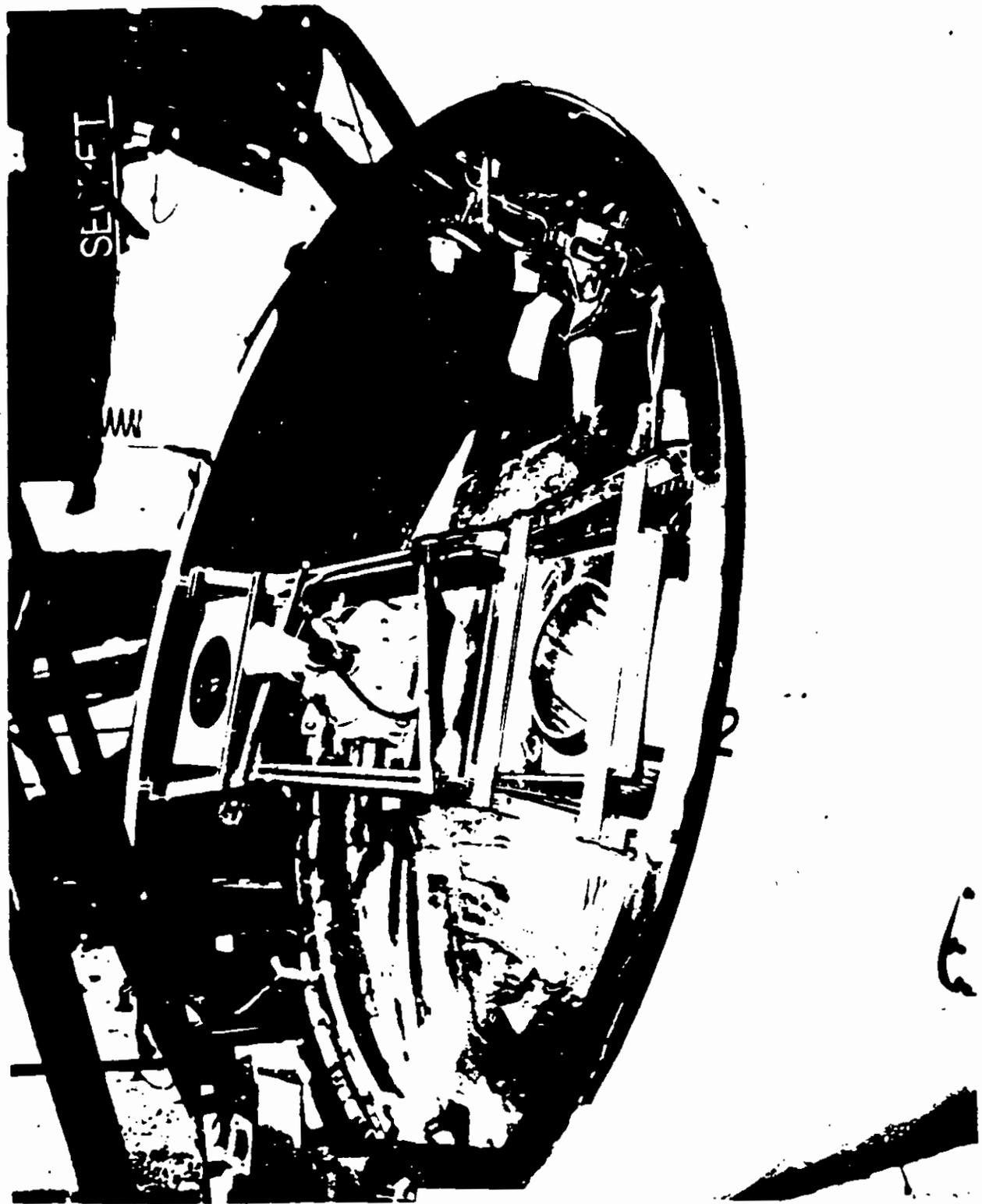


FIGURE 5.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED DATA ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954~~

AIRMUNITIONS LTR 136-11-56E  
Page 10 of 10

5. Unusual Problems.

None.

6. Contamination.

None.

FOR THE COMMANDER

*Col R Z Douglas*  
for

JOE M. WHITFIELD  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander  
2705th Airmunitions Wing

DISTRIBUTION

1 cy per organization authorized  
Explosive Ordnance Disposal  
Personnel possessing AFSC's 3254B,  
461XO (EOD Qualified) 46171 or 46131



~~RESTRICTED DATA ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954~~

~~SECRET~~