

In June 1960, an air defense missile exploded at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, 18 miles north of Trenton, melting a nuclear warhead and spreading deadly plutonium.



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In 1961, a B-52 broke apart in mid-air over Goldsboro, North Carolina, causing two nuclear bombs to fall.

One parachute opened normally, and that bomb survived with minor damage. The other parachute failed to open. When that bomb hit, five of six safety devices failed. **A single switch prevented a nuclear disaster.**



In 2007, a B-52 bomber flying out of North Dakota was mistakenly armed with six nuclear warheads and flew for three hours across the United States. Nobody knew – not the aircraft’s crew nor men on the ground – until after the plane landed in Louisiana.



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In 1980, a false alarm was caused by a computer chip malfunction that generated indications of a large-scale Soviet nuclear attack.

The U.S. raised alert levels, crews took launch codes out of their safes and keys were inserted into nuclear switches. Former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was woken up in the middle of the night with the assured instruction that a nuclear attack was underway and that he had to wake up President Jimmy Carter. Eight minutes' worth of nuclear preparations were triggered by a malfunctioning computer chip that cost less than \$1.



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