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PREFACE

This report documents an Air Force Armament Laboratory in-house effort under Project 2549-03-18. The tests were conducted at Range C-64Å from 9 April 1973 to 7 August 1975.

Dr. Kevin F. McArdle, MAYV was the program manager.

This report has been reviewed by the Information Office (OI) and is releasable to the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). At NTIS, it will be available to the general public, including foreign nations.

This technical report has been reviewed and is approved for publication.

FOR THE COMMANDER

J. R. MURRAY Chief, Weapon Systems Analysis Division



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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this effort was to develop an explosive device capable of projecting 32, 2.26-gram aluminum cubes¹² at an initial speed of 10,000 ft/sec within a solid angle of 3 millisteradians. An experimental approach to the design was taken. The designs were checked by testing prototype models for fragment spatial distribution and fragment speed by using high speed cameras to record impact flashes on steel witness panels. The final design underwent more extensive characterization testing using fiberboard recovery bundles, flash X-rays and Dahlgren (Reference 1) screens.

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^aThe aluminum projectiles were not exactly cubical, but had nominal dimensions of 0.375x0.375x0.355 inch.

SECTION II

DESIGN SELECTION TESTS

The designs tested can be divided into three types of devices. Each type will be discussed and results presented in the order in which it was tested.

1. END PROJECTOR TESTS

Items of the first type were end projectors designed and supplied by DLJW, the Warheads and Explosives Branch. The basic device is illustrated in Figure 1. Other variations of the device included the use of plastic and metal wave shaping cones embedded in the explosive, and concentric lead sleeves surrounding the fragment end of the cylinder. These projectors were tested for spatial and speed distributions by firing them at 0.020-inch-thick steel panels at a standoff of 24 feet. The flashes due to fragment impacts were recorded by high speed cameras.

Figure 2 illustrates the spatial distribution of the fragments at a distance of 24 feet from the point of detonation for a projector of this type with a concave end. Assuming it was a whole cube, the initial speed of the first arrival for this firing was 11,300 ft/sec. The spatial distribution and speed are typical of those obtained for devices of this type. While use of the lead sleeves and/or concave ends did show a slight improvement in the spatial distribution of fragments, it became apparent that the item could not be improved sufficiently and the design was abandoned.

2. DISHED MAT PROJECTOR TESTS

The second type of device, designed by DLRD, the Terminal Ballistics Branch, employed a much smaller length to diameter ratio and had the fragments mounted in a concave face. In addition, the explosive charge was initiated simultaneously around the perimeter. The design is illustrated in Figure 3. The explosive charge was handcrafted in the field from standard 1.25-pound blocks of composition C4.

Figure 4 illustrates the fragment pattern produced at 24 feet by the first item of this type tested. All impacts on the steel witness panel were within a 32-inch diameter circle (9.7 millisteradians). A series of tests was then conducted in which the thicknesses L and T, the radius R. and diameter D were varied. Design parameters and firing results for

Footnote

"See Equation (11) of Appendix A for details of the determination of initial speeds.

items of this type are listed in Table 1. All items of this type produced fragment patterns with less dispersion than items of the end projector type.

3. PLASTIC FILLED MAT PROJECTOR

While the fragment spatial distributions of the dished mat projectors were close to the design goal, the highest speed obtained was 1500 ft/sec below that required. Difficulties encountered in fabricating the concave surface by hand implied that any final model would require a cast explosive fill. In addition, those projectors with thicknesses such that a large amount of explosive remained behind the central cubes, produced extensive breakup of the cubes.

At this point in the development, a serendipitous change in the design was made. It was noticed that projectors with almost no explosive behind the central cubes were producing acceptable fragment patterns. It was reasoned, and incorrectly so, that the fragment pattern produced by these devices was controlled more by tho quantity of explosive directly behind the cubes than by the concavity of the surface. Therefore, a projector with a flat explosive charge having a plug of explosive removed from the center should behave in the same manner as a projector with a deep concave surface. In addition, flat surfaced projectors would be simpler to fabricate by hand. To test this hypothesis a third type projector, as illustrated in Figure 5, was constructed. Notice that in addition to the flat surface and cylindrical cavity in the center of the explosive, the 32 cubes are embedded in a disk of aluminum-filled plastic. Properties of this plastic are given in Table 2.

The fragment spatial distribution at 24 feet for shot 44, which had a maximum initial speed of 8125 ft/sec, is given in Figure 6. The dispersion of the fragment pattern was as small as that of the devices with concave surfaces but the speed was still 2000 ft/sec toe low. Subsequent firings of identical projectors without the plastic surrounding the cubes produced fragment patterns with excessive dispersion similar to that of Figure 2.

As the design appeared very promising, a series of firings was conducted that varied the thickness of the explosive charge, the presence or absence of the cylindrical cavity at the center and the presence or absence of the central four aluminum cubes.^a Results of these firings are given in Table 3. From these results, it was determined that a model with a solid disk of explosive 1-inch thick and having the original fragment arrangement was suitable for more detailed characterization tests.

Footnote

^aThe four cubes when removed from the center of the pattern were placed at the corners of the pattern, keeping the total number 32.

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SECTION III

DETA (LED CHARACTERIZATION TESTS OF PLASTIC-FILLED MAT PROJECTOR

Table 4 lists the pertinent parameters for 20 characterization tests. Initial speeds listed in this table assume the fastest fragment was a whole cube.

1. FRAGMENT MASS DISTRIBUTION

Fragment mass distributions were obtained by firing the fragment projectors into bundles of $8 \times 4 \times 2$ -foot thick fiberboard at standoff distances of 24, 48, and 96 feet. Histograms of the recovered fragment masses are given in Figure 7. A comparison of these histograms indicates that no whole cubes were recovered at 24 feet, and that there are no signific: differences between fragments recovered at 48 and 96 feet. The breakup of whole cubes illustrated in histograms (a) and (b) is due to impact on the fiberboard bundles, while the breakup shown in histograms (c), (d), (e), and (f), occurs primarily on launching rather than on recovery of the cubes.

Therefore, fragments recovered in fiberboard at standoffs of 48 feet or greater accurately represent the launched fragment masses. Additional recovered fragment histograms are given in Figure 8.

Figure 9 presents the average of the seven individual 48-foot shots. The vertical bars establish the 1-sigma limits.

2. FRAGMENT SPEED DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of initial fragment speeds was studied by a number of methods: flash panels, Dahlgren screens, depth of penetration, and flash X-ray. Each of these methods has its own peculiarities, making a direct comparison of results difficult.

a. Flash Panel Measurements

Early attempts to obtain fragment arrival times at 24 feet by using high speed cameras (8,000 frames per second) to record impact flashes on steel witness panels were not successful. The brightness, and close spacing of the flashes precluded the identification of impacts other than the first. Tests conducted with the panels at 48 feet were equally unsuccessful. Therefore, usually only the arrival time of the fastest fragments could be determined by this method.

4

b. Dahlgren Screen Measurements

During the optimization of the design of the projector, attempts were made to obtain fragment arrival times at 24 feet by using Dahlgren screens mounted on the front surface of the fiberboard recovery bundles. The Dahlgren screen system is a make-type circuit which produces an electrical signal whenever a metal fragment passes through the screen. therefore, this method produces a list of fragment arrival times at the screen location. In addition the screens also serve as witness panels, yielding the spatial distribution. However, no information is obtained that asso-Ciates fragment masses with times of arrival. While this system worked successfully with some projector designs, the final projector design produced a fireball of detonation products that interfered with the operation of the screens, such that only the arrival time of the fastest fragments could be determined. Fortunately, it was discovered during the course of the 48-foot firings for fragment recovery that the fireball did not normally extend that far. This permitted the use of Dahlgren screens to obtain times of arrival at 48 feet.

c. Depth of Penetration Measurements

The results of the firings into fiberboard at 48 feet were also used to calculate impact speeds from the depth of penetration of the fragments into the fiberboard.^a While the speeds calculated by this method have large error limits, the method has the advantage of associating a mass, impact speed, and location with each fragment.

The results obtained by this and the Dahlgren screen method are not directly comparable. The Dahlgren screen method gives arrival times but no masses. This makes a calculation of either the initial or the impact speed impossible. However, as masses are obtained with depth of penetration data, the impact speeds can be converted to equivalent arrival times. This calculation also requires a knowledge of the drag in the air of the aluminum fragments. To make a more appealing comparison the quantity S_{rot} is defined as

 $S_{rot} = \frac{R}{T}$

where R is the constant radius at which the arrival time T is measured.

Footnote

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^aMann barrel firings of aluminum fragmen's into fiberboard were conducted to determine this relationship. A series of similar firings were also conducted to determine the aerodynamic drag of the aluminum fragments. Detailed results will appear in a future report, while the results are given in Appendix A.

5

This quantity is often mistakenly referred to as the average velocity. Details of the calculations are given in Appendix A, while the results are illustrated in Figure 10. The average S_{rot} speeds of shots 135, 136, 145, 149 and 152, determined by Dahlgren screens, are presented in Figure 11. The average S_{rot} speeds of the same shots determined by depth of penetration are given in Figure 12. The latter method yields fewer high speed fragments and more slow speed fragments than the former method. The impact speeds determined by depth of penetration have also been converted to initial speeds, and the average initial speeds of shots 135, 136, 145, 149 and 152 are presented in Figure 13.

d. Flash X-Ray Measurements

Flash X-ray techniques were also used to study the speed distribution of the fragments. Figure 14 illustrates the test setup. The large film to head distance and small fragment to film distance minimized parallax effects. The film was exposed when the first fragment impacted the Dahlgren screen. The data obtained in these tests are in the form of fragment positions at the instant of time at which the fastest fragment has traveled 24 feet. Because of the high spatial density of fragments, it was impractical to recover and match fragments with the images on the exposed film. For film images that appeared to be whole or almost whole cubes, the position data were used to calculate initial speeds. In calculating speeds, all fragments were considered as being on a line extending from the initial device location to the center of impact. The maximum error introduced into the initial speeds by this assumption is 150 ft/sec.

The histogram shown in Figure 15 presents the average initial speeds of five such X-ray tests. The 22 fragments included in this histogram are in good agreement with the average number (26) of large fragments recovered in the fiberboard bundles.

3. FRAGMENT SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

1

The spatial distribution of the fragments was determined by recording the location of fragment impacts obtained during the flash panel and Dahlgren screen tests at 48-foot standoff. The center of impact was then calculated, and the number of fragments lying in incremental solid angles centered on the center of impact determined. The individual and average results obtained for eight shots are shown in Figures 16 and 17.

4. COMPARISON OF CHARACTERIZATION METHODS

No difficulties were encountered with the determination of the spatial distributions of the fragments from the impacts on the Dahlgren screens, flash panels or fiberboard bundles. When mass distributions are to be outained by recovery of the fragments from fiberboard, care must be taken to insure that the fragments do not breakup on impacting the fiberboard. A comparison of fragment mass distributions recovered at different

6

distances will aid in the selection of a suitable recovery distance that minimizes breakup.

The determination of speed distributions presents the most difficulty. Flash panels or Dahlgren screens readily provide time of arrival data. However, given N impacts on either one, the flash panel will provide less than N time of arrival signals while the Dahlgren screen will provide more than N signals. Application of the time of arrival data is also complicated by the fact that each time of arrival signal cannot be identified with a definite mass. This makes calculations of initial speeds impossible. The flash X-ray has the advantage of being the only method to yield measurements of speed over very short path lengths. However, no accurate mass can be associated with each fragment. It is possible to make estimates of the fragment masses from the size of the images on the radiographs, but the estimates are subject to large errors.

As mentioned previously only the technique that employs firings into fiberboard recovery bundles has the advantage of associating a mass, impact speed and location with each fragment.

SECTION IV

CONCLUSIONS

All design goals were met. It is recommended that any similar fragment projectors be characterized by firings into three adjacent fiberboard bundles, 30 sheets thick, at a standoff of 48 feet. The X-Y coordinates of each impact location, the sheet in which the fragment is recovered and the fragment mass should be recorded. This information combined with an impact speed versus depth of penetration expression, and an air drag expression can be used to determine initial fragment masses and velocities. The depth of penetration and air drag expressions should be generated by single fragment firings if necessary.

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Figure 2. Fragment Spatial Distribution at 24 Feet





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2.0 1.0 MASS (Grams) (d) - 48 Feet Shot No. 136 20 -0 NUMBER 0 2.9 1.0 MASS (Grams) (c) - 48 Feet Shot No. 135 0 20 MUMBER 0



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Figure 8. Number of Recovered Fragments at 48 Feet by Mass Class







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Fragment Spatial Distributions (Concluded) Figure 16.

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TABLE 1. DISHED MAI PROJECTOR RESULTS

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					Composition	C			
					C4	Detasheet	Initial	69	Number
Shot	٥	~	T		Mass	Mass	Speed	^{0,75}	of
Number	Inches	Inches	Inch	Inch	(Grams)	(Grams)	Ft/Sec	(Millisteradians)	Impacts
30	S	3.5	1/2	ž	225	55	8125	2.9	49
32	4	3.5	1/2	Z	178	25	5680	2.7	31
33	7	3.5	1/2	ş	502	86	7775	3.9	54
¥	S	m	1/2	1/8	277	60	8125	2.3	34
35	S	ю	5/8	0	274	60	7775	0.9	37
36	S	n	1/2	1/8	281	60	0006	157.6	29
37	S	8	1/2	1/8	270	60	8475	6.7	27
38	7	ē	1/2	3/16	529	98	7800	27.0	34
39	7	N	1/2	1/16	492	3 8	6725	4.1	32
40	S	Ž	1/2	3/16	218	52	6750	25.8	30
41	S	7	1/2	1/8	238	55	6600	7.0	32
Soli	id angle	e about	the cei	nter of	impact that in	ncludes 75 p	ercent of	the impacts.	
p The	cubes f	for this	s shot	were not	placed in the	concave su	rface of 1	the explosive, but	were in
the	plane r	oaralle.	I to th	e front	surface.				
	Vot meas	ured							

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TAMLE 2. PROPERTIES OF ALUMINUM FILLED PLASTIC

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Hardener	Rencity	Compressive PS	: Strength	Flexural PS	Strength I	Tensile Strength
Number	Grams/cc	Ultimate	Module	Ultimate	Module	PSI
927	1.74	26,000	720,000	14,000	1.2 x 10 ⁶	7000

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	Explosive	Composition C4	Detasheet	Four	Diameter of	Maximum Init.al	Number	Ą	Avg. Recovered
Shot	Trickness (Inch)	Mass (Grams)	Mass (Grams)	Cubes In Center	Cavity (Inches)	Speed [Ft/Sec]	0f Impacts	ⁿ 75 (Millisteradians)	Fragment Mass (Grams)
43	0.50	284	54	No No	0.75	7550 ^a	26	2.6	1.600
4	0.50	279	5 4	No	0.75	7700 ⁸	27	3.4	1.759
46	0.50	270	54	No	0.75	7725	33	2.8	1.892
47	0.50	273	z	No	0.75	7700	39	1.8	1.706
49	0.50	284	54	Yes	0.75	7375	31	4.9	1.924
3	0.50	289	54	Yes	0.75	7400	25	3.3	1.934
5	0.50	289	54	No	0.0	8250	27	3.3	2.084
52	0.50	289	54	No	0.0	8250	33	3.7	1.957
53	0.50	289	S 3	Yes	0.0	8750	28	9.1	2.014
2	0.50	290	51	Yes	0.0	8825	28	3.6	1.832
8	0.75	388	57	Yes	0.75	8950	32	4.5	1.463
5	0.75	387	61	Yes	1.25	8425	34	5.2	1.070
S	0.75	401	57	Yes	0.0	11,300	19	5.4	1.915
65	0.75	408	59	Yes	0.0	9775	35	2.9	1.463
67	0.75	391	19	Yes	0.0	8850	26	1.7	1.748
3	1.0	535	67	Yes	0.75	9475	34	4.2	1.227
89	1.0	546	68	Yes	0.75	9500	20	1.7	1.312
3	1.0	264	72	Yes	0.0	11,475	ž	ž	ž
ŝ	1.0	550	8	Yes	0.0	11,225	48	2.2	1.067
	Based on fl	lash panel in	pact at 24	f feet.					
``ه.	Solid angle	about the c	enter of i	impact tha	t include	s 75 perc	ent of 1	the impacts.	
Ż	R Not reco	rded.		I		I		ł	

TABLE 3. DESIGN PARAMETERS AND RESULTS

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								Fragment	s Mith Mass			
					-		Average	Greater Th	an 0.25 Grans		ALL FE	agaents
			Composition	•			Recovered		Total	Number	1	Total
	Test	Standoff	ວັ	Detasheet	Initial	ĩ	Fragment	Number	Recovered	of	Number	Fragent
J S S S	Determination	Distance	Mass	Mass	Speed	(Milli-	Nass	of	Fragment	Velocity	of	Recovered
į	Machod	(Jeet)	(Grees)	(Grams)	(Ft/Sec)	st eradians)	(Grans)	Fragments	Mass (Grams)	Signals	Fragments	Mass (Graes)
8	8	*	550	67	11.225	1.5	1.03	31	32.0	12	34	32.4
8	8	77	ÿ	Ħ	10,550	2	1.44	31	44.8	•	\$0	
132	8	74	ž	2	11.625	¥	1.18	5	43.8	=	55	45.9
110	YAA-X	2	¥	5	11.025	ž	ž	ž	3	8	5	3
111	X-BAY	77	9	Ħ	10.700	2	ž	ž	\$	ጽ	3	3
114	X-RAY	32	ø	5	10.550	ž	3	ž	7	23	3	3
115	X-RAY	7	7	ÿ	16,900	ž	ž	ž	ž	31	3	3
110	X-RAY	24	ž	ÿ	10,725	ž	\$	Z	3	3	3	5
135	Sa	7	ž	5	11.200	Ž	1.85	z	63.7	*	4	63.9
3	SQ	\$	Ž	7	11.525	ž	1.84	30	55.3	11	39	58.1
145	8	4 8	538	64	11,400	2.8	1.72	31	53.5	33	3.	54.1
149	8	\$	537	62	11,000	2.9	1.52	33	58.3	38	r .	58.3
3	8	97	527	62	9	3.0	:.82	32	58.2	9	32	58.2
151	SQ	97	504	67	12,175	2.6	3.:	32	52.5	•	32	52.5
152	8	\$	512	8	11,300	1.3	1.73	32	55.3	5	32	55.3
*	Ę	\$	530	z	9	2.5	2	ž	2	9	H	2
147	8	\$	532	63	2	r ri	5	2	5	9	33	7
7	£	\$	550	63	2	2.6	5	2	5	9	32	F X
133	8	8	Ņ	ž	11,850	Ķ	1.83	32	58.5	11	33	53.5
134	88	*	9	¢.	12,025	9	2.02	27	54.0	110	8	54. 3
ant,	first arrival	recorded										
	r ome 4 x 4 foot	t Dahlgren	screen used		Ê	Flash Panel			N = No data			
					2	Not applicab	le		SR = Not recor	ded		
					• SQ	- Dahlgren scr	Central Centra Central Central Centra					

TABLE 4. FINAL DESIGN PERFORMANCE

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REFERENCES

 Shelley, Sidney O., <u>Vulnerability and Lethality Testing System (VALTS)</u>, Armament Development and Test Center Report ADTC-TR-72-127, December 1972, Unclassified.

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APPENDIX A

COMPUTATION METHODS

This appendix lists the relationships used to convert the measured data into more convenient and usable forms.

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1. AERODYNAMIC DRAG EXPRESSIONS

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Given that a fragment had an initial speed S , the speed after it has traveled a distance x_3 is given by

$$S = S_0 e^{-\alpha X}$$
(1)

where α is a constant given by

$$\alpha = \frac{C_d \rho \Lambda}{2m}$$
(2)

The quantities in this expression are defined as

- C d aerodynamic coefficient of drag
- P air density
- A fragment presented area
- m fragment mass

While sufficient information is available to determine α for new, unfired, whole cubes, none is available for the distorted, partial fragments typical of this projector. Therefore a series of Mann barrel firings was conducted to determine the effective α for actual fragments. The results are:

(3a)	0.25 grams \leq m < 0.75 grams	$\alpha = 0.0200/ft$	
(3b)	0.75 grams <u><</u> m < 1.25 grams	a = 0.0153/ft	
(3c)	1.25 grams < m < 1.75 grams	a = 0.0137/ft	
(3d)	1.75 grams $\leq m \leq 2.26$ grams	a = 0.0129/ft	(3)

Equation (1) was used in the form

$$S_o = Se^{\alpha X}$$
 (4)

to calculate initial speeds from impact speeds in the case of the fragments recovered from fiberboard. In order to calculate the quantity Srot from impact speeds, an expression relating impact speeds and arrival times is required. The first integral of Equation (1) provides such an expression.

$$S = S_{o} c - \alpha x$$
 (1)

as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathrm{S}$$
 (5)

sub: tituting for S and integrating

$$\begin{array}{l} x = R & t = T \\ \int e^{\alpha X} dx = \int S_0 dt \\ x = 0 & t = 0 \end{array}$$
 (6)

where T is the arrival time of the fragment at the distance x = R.

$$T = \frac{\left\{ e^{\alpha R} - 1 \right\}}{\alpha S_{o}}$$
(7)

or

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$$T = \frac{\left\{1 - e^{-\alpha R}\right\}}{\alpha S}$$
(8)

where S is the speed of the fragment after it has traveled a distance R.

The quantity S rot is:

$$s_{rot} = \frac{R}{T}$$
(9)

Substituting for T, this becomes

$$S_{rot} = \frac{\alpha RS}{\left\{1 - e^{-\alpha R}\right\}}$$
(10)

This expression was used to calculate S_{rot} from speed data obtained at 48 feet.

Equation (7) can be solved for S to give

$$S_{o} = \frac{\left\{ e^{\alpha R} - 1 \right\}}{\alpha T}$$
(11)

Equation (11), along with an assumption regarding the value of α , can be used to calculate initial speeds from Dahlgren screen, flash panel, or other time of arrival data.

2. DEPTH OF PENETRATION RELATION

Aluminum fragments recovered during the course of the development tests were fired singly from a Mann barrel into fiberboard at impact speeds up to 5000 ft/sec. From the recovered fragment masses and depths of penetration the following relationships were established:

$$S_{\text{DOP}} = C \cdot N \tag{12}$$

where

 $S_{\mbox{DOP}}$ is the impact speed and N is the number of the fiberboard sheet from which the fragment is recovered

and

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(13a)	0.25 grams	$\leq m < 0.75$	grams	C = 482	
(13b)	0.75 grams	<u>≤</u> m < 1.25	grams	C = 356	
(13c)	1.25 grams	<u>< m < 1.75</u>	grams	C = 278	
(13d)	1.75 grams	<u>< m < 2.26</u>	grams	C = 280	(13)

INITIAL DISTRIBUTION

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1 USABRL/APG 1 Hq USAF/RDQ 1 ASD/ENFEA 1 Hq USAF/SAMI 1 ADTC/SD-22 1 1 OASD/SA ADTC/SD-15 1 DIA/DIR-4C3 1 ADTC/SD-3 1 OSD/PA&E 1 ADTC/SD-23 1 1 AFIS/INTA ADTC/SD-102 1 10 AFSC/XRPA AFATL/DLYV 1 1 AFSC/SDW USAFTFWC/OA 1 TAC/XPSY 1 TAC/DRFA 1 TAC/DOV 1 TAC/DRA 1 AFFDL/PTS 1 ASD/XRL 1 AFAL/RW 1 ASD/ENYEHM 1 AUL/LSE-70-239 1 USAFTFWC/TE 1 Hq SAC/XOB 1 Hq SAC/NRI 12 DDC 1 US NAV WPNS CEN/Code 12 US NAV WPNS CEN/Code 408 1 1 US NAV WPNS CEN/Code 407 1 USAF/AFSC/Code 143 2 OGDEN ALC/MMNOP 2 AFWL/LK 2 AFATL/DLOSL 1 AFATL/DL 1 AFATL/DLJ 1 AFATL/DLJF AFATL/DLJM AFATL/DLJK AFATL/DLJW AFATL/DLDG 1 AFATL/DLD 1 AFATL/DLY 1 ADTC/XR 1 ADTC/SD 1 ADTC/INH 1 SACPO 1 TAWC/OA 1 TAWC/TRADOCLO 2 AFFDL/FES 41 (The reverse of this page is blank)