

(2-8)

1. Submitted by: HQ AFSPA/SPSS, Kirtland AFB NM

2. Operation/event name:

3. Keywords: Missile Security/Unauthorized Entry to LF

4. Title: Unauthorized Entry to Minuteman Launch Facility at Ellsworth AFB, SD

5. Observation: At 1155 hours on 3 April 1988, Wing Security Control (WSC) at Ellsworth AFB SD, was notified that two suspicious carloads of Native Americans were near LF L-06. Two Meade County Sheriff units and a SD Highway Patrol unit were dispatched. At 1150 hours, an alarm situation #6-C (outer zone violation) was declared by the Missile Combat Crew responsible for LF L-06. The ART was dispatched. The Flight Security Supervisor (FSS), Flight Security Officer (FSO), and a fire team were also dispatched. A maintenance team arrived at the LF and reported that two individuals were standing on the silo lid of LF L-06 with an additional five individuals standing off site observing. Two privately-owned vehicles were also off site near the LF. A HELPING HAND was initiated and the maintenance team was instructed to remain off site and observe the situation. When the ART arrived on scene, they notified the individuals on the site that they were trespassing on federal property and asked them to depart the area. Both individuals refused. The ART members were instructed to await the arrival of civil authorities, provided no damage to the site was underway.

6. Discussion: Two Meade County Sheriff units arrived and the deputies were escorted onto the site by the ART. Both suspects were arrested and transported to Meade County Jail in Sturgis, SD. A search of the site was conducted by the ART with negative findings. The remaining civilians (observing) departed the site with civilian law enforcement. This incident is representative of a total of eight similar incidents at various locations across SAC in the late 1980s. None of these incidents resulted in decreased operational readiness of the Strategic Air Command. The security systems in place, including hardened facilities/launch tubes, close cooperation with civil authorities, and well drilled/implemented security force procedures, worked very effectively.

7. Lessons Learned: The effectiveness of the security system demonstrated that the people, equipment, and procedures in place were satisfactory as employed.

8. Recommended Action: None

9. OPR Comments: None