

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
86TH AIRLIFT WING (USAFE)



14 January 2021

86 Communications Squadron FOIA RSC
Unit 3360 Box 15
APO AE 09094-6015

John Greenewald Jr.
27305 W. Live Oak Rd. Suite #123
Castaic CA 91384

Mr. Greenewald

This correspondence is in response to your FOIA request number 2021-00805-F.

In your initial request, you requested a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, of all emails, letters, memos, reports, etc. about the missile alert on, or around, December 12, 2020.

The responsive records are provided with certain portions withheld under FOIA Exemption 6 (b) (6), Personal Privacy. Information in personnel and medical files as similar personal information in other files that, if disclosed to a requester, other than the person about whom the information is about, would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This responsive records you requested are attached in the email address that you provided to our office. There are no assessable fees for processing your request.

Your FOIA request is considered "CLOSED" at this office; however, if you have any questions, please contact the 86 Communications Squadron FOIA/PA office at 86cs.scokifoia@us.af.mil or by phone at 011-49-6371-47-0982.

Sincerely,

1/14/2021

 Joseph J. Hernandez

Signed by: HERNANDEZ.JOSEPH.J.1167532272
JOSEPH J. HERNANDEZ, DAF, CIV
Freedom of Information Act Manager
86th Communications Squadron, Ramstein AB

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



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document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

(b) (6) **USAF USAFE HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA/USAFE-AFAFRICA/PA**

From: USAFE/PAO
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:45 AM
To: **(b) (6)**
Cc: USAFE/PAO
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base

Good morning **(b) (6)**

Thank you for reaching out. This is our response on the situation at this time.

USAFE-AFAFRICA received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel and triggered the AtHoc notification system. The missile launch was determined to be part of a training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies.

Respectfully,

(b) (6) USAF
Public Affairs Officer
HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs
Ramstein Air Base, Germany
(b) (6)
DSN: 314-480-6558
Comm: +49 (0)6371-47-6558
teleworking on odd days

-----Original Message-----

From: **(b) (6)**
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:16 PM
To: 86 AW/PA Command Information <86aw.pa.commandinformation@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is **(b) (6)** I am a correspondent with the Russian major news agency RIA Novosti (www.ria.ru). I'd appreciate it if you could clarify the situation with the air attack alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base in Germany (the link to the report in concern is below).

In particular, my questions are:

- Could you confirm the fact that the alarm went off without the "exercise" mode?
- Why did the alarm go off like that? Was it a malfunction or was the situation considered as a real threat?
- Was it related to the Russian Bulava missiles tests?
- Was there a possibility of a response to the potential threat?
- Have there been any engagements with the Russians in this regard?
- Have there been any measures taken to make sure it doesn't happen again?

Here is the link:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/missile-drill-momentarily-triggers-false-air-attack-alarm-at-ramstein-air-base-1.655241>

Earlier I contacted the Pentagon press-service - they suggested that I should contact you directly.

Thank you in advance and take care!

--

Best regards,

(b) (6)

Correspondent

RIA Novosti

(b) (6)

From: USAFE/PAO
To: (b) (6)
Cc: USAFE/PAO
Bcc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:37:00 PM

(b) (6)

Here is our statement regarding your query:

"USAFE-AFAFRICA received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel and triggered the AtHoc notification system. The missile launch was determined to be part of a training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies."

Thank you,

(b) (6)

USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs
DSN: 480-6558
Comm: +49 (0) 6371-47-6558
WhatsApp: (b) (6)

Teleworking on odd days

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@dma.mil <noreply@dma.mil>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:26 AM
To: 86 AW/PA <86AW.PA@us.af.mil>
Subject: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert

This message was sent from the Ramstein Air Base website.

Message From: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Response requested: Yes

Message:

Hi,

My name is (b) (6) and I am the Assistant Editor of the War Zone (<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone>). Ramstein Air Base's official Facebook account made a post today about a curious missile alert. My questions are:

- How many individuals received the initial alert and how long was it before they were informed that it was not a threat and had only been an exercise?
- What country launched the missile in question, from where, and what type was it?

- Is Ramstein aware of any other US bases in the EUCOM AOR that received this information and issued similar alerts?

Any other information about this incident would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

HTTP_CMS_CLIENT_IP:
HTTP_X_ARR_LOG_ID: 2ce72ed2-6b97-4ab7-a6a2-f633f5d13cc3
HTTP_ORIGIN: <https://www.ramstein.af.mil>
HTTP_TRUE_CLIENT_IP: 172.58.188.42

From:
To:
Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:33:00 PM

Hi (b) (6)

Here's the RTQ that we will use to respond to media queries on this alert notification:

"USAFE-AFAFRICA received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel and triggered the ATHoc notification system. The missile launch was determined to be part of a training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies."

This does not answer Russia or EUCOM specific questions. We defer to your office for those questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs
DSN: 480-6558
Comm: +49 (0) 6371-47-6558
WhatsApp: (b) (6)

Teleworking on odd days

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:11 PM
To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

Good afternoon!

Wanted to let you all know we received another query on the alert notification from (b) (6). We responded with the same RTQ that our duty officer provided to (b) (6) from The War Zone yesterday.

Respectfully,

(b) (6)

U.S. European Command Public Affairs (ECPA)

DSN: 324.412.8145

Comm: +49 711.7080.8145

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:52 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: EUCOM Stuttgart ECPA List Media Ops MBA

<eucom.stuttgart.ecpa.list.media-ops-mba@mail.mil>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Thanks, (b) (6) already did. Just covering all my bases. Thanks, again.

(b) (6)

Stars and Stripes
Kaiserslautern, Germany

DSN 314 583-9314

Cell (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:51 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: EUCOM Stuttgart ECPA List Media Ops MBA

<eucom.stuttgart.ecpa.list.media-ops-mba@mail.mil>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

Hi (b) (6)

We don't have anything from EUCOM on this, please reach out to Rammstein PA for any additional details.

Thanks!

(b) (6)

Very respectfully,

(b) (6)

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

DSN: 324-412-9340

Comm: +49-711-7080-9340

Cell: (b) (6)
NIPF (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:36 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: EUCOM Stuttgart ECPA List Media Ops MBA
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Good morning (b) (6)

I was looking into doing a story about the alert notification that sounded at Ramstein Air Base on Saturday. It turned out to be an actual missile launch but for training.

We did see that Russia tested four missiles on Saturday - Russian nuclear submarine test-fires four missiles - Europe - Stripes < Caution-Caution-<https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/russian-nuclear-submarine-test-fires-four-missiles-1.655072> > - Can you tell me whether this event triggered the alert notification at Ramstein? Was EUCOM notified in advance of these test launches? Is EUCOM typically notified in advance of Russian missile test launches in the European theater by Russia or other means?

Also, did any other bases in EUCOM use its alert notification air attack warning on Saturday morning, besides Ramstein?

My deadline is 1500 today.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Stars and Stripes
Kaiserslautern, Germany
DSN 314 583-9314
Cell (b) (6)
(b) (6)
www.stripes.com

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:00:12 PM

Hello (b) (6)

Thanks for the response.

Kind Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Stars and Stripes
Kaiserslautern, Germany
DSN 314 583-9314
Cell (b) (6)
(b) (6)
www.stripes.com

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:37 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: USAFE/PAO <usafepao.pao@us.af.mil>; 86 AW/PA <86AW.PA@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

Hi (b) (6)

Here is our statement regarding your query:

"USAFE-AFAFRICA received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel and triggered the AtHoc notification system. The missile launch was determined to be part of a training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies."

Thanks,

(b) (6)

USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs
DSN: 480-6558
Comm: +49 (0) 6371-47-6558
WhatsApp: (b) (6)

Teleworking on odd days

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:36 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: EUCOM Stuttgart ECPA List Media Ops MBA
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] query from Stars and Stripes

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Good morning (b) (6)

I was looking into doing a story about the alert notification that sounded at Ramstein Air Base on Saturday. It turned out to be an actual missile launch but for training.

We did see that Russia tested four missiles on Saturday - Russian nuclear submarine test-fires four missiles - Europe - Stripes < Caution-Caution-<https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/russian-nuclear-submarine-test-fires-four-missiles-1.655072> > - Can you tell me whether this event triggered the alert notification at Ramstein? Was EUCOM notified in advance of these test launches? Is EUCOM typically notified in advance of Russian missile test launches in the European theater by Russia or other means?

Also, did any other bases in EUCOM use its alert notification air attack warning on Saturday morning, besides Ramstein?

My deadline is 1500 today.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Stars and Stripes
Kaiserslautern, Germany
DSN 314 583-9314

Cell (b) (6)

(b) (6)

www.stripes.com

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Bcc:
Subject: RE: From (b) (6) CNN
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:22:00 PM

Yes, it was Saturday the 12th.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:57 PM
To: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: From (b) (6) CNN

Was this the 12th ...can I at least get what day it was

From: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:26 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: From (b) (6) CNN

(b) (6)

USAFE-AFAFRICA received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel and triggered the AtHoc notification system as well as the 'big voice'. No aircraft or pilots were scrambled. The missile launch was determined to be part of a regional training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies.

Thank you,

(b) (6)
USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs
DSN: 480-6558
Comm: +49 (0) 6371-47-6558
WhatsApp: (b) (6)

Teleworking on odd days

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:20 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc:

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] From (b) (6) CNN

Hi ma'am.

(b) (6) may have also forwarded my query.

Can I soonest get any and all information on the inaccurate missile warning. Exactly what happened.

1. Was there a 'big voice' audio message or just texts? If audio can I get a copy?
2. What did it tell people to do.
3. What did people do?
4. Any pilots scramble?
5. How long did it last?
6. How did know to sound an all clear?
7. What happens now? Investigation?
8. Do you believe (and why) it was somehow triggered by the Russian submarine launched missiles?
9. Any and all info gratefully received!!!

(b) (6)

CNN Pentagon Correspondent

202 515 2259 office

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Article on RAB missile alert
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:17:00 AM
Attachments:

(b) (6), a couple of news articles I thought you might be interested in (below and attached).

Also, after I posted the statement on our Facebook page on Saturday, we received about 180 comments from people. Several said they could not hear or understand the giant voice message on base, they never received the phone alert, or the "all clear" came before "alarm red, MOPP 4" message. One person also recommended having a system to inform the BX and Commissary so they can make an announcement over their intercoms. Otherwise, people in those stores have no idea what's happening outside.

Just FYSA.

v/r

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

86th Airlift Wing

DSN: (314) 480-3852

Commercial: +49 (0)6371 47 3852

Mobile: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:03 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Article on RAB missile alert

CNN

14 December 2020

Russian Missile Drill Triggers False Alarm at US Military Base in Germany

A Russian military exercise triggered an unusual warning at a critical US military base in Germany on Saturday that ballistic missiles had been launched, according to multiple US defense officials. The warning at Ramstein Air Base resulted in several minutes of uncertainty and alarm until an all-clear was sounded, according to the officials.

The initial assessment is that the missile warning may have been triggered when US intelligence satellites detected a launch. Highly classified US military satellites that track the infrared trail of ballistic missiles determined that a submerged Russian submarine had test fired four intercontinental missiles from its underwater location in the Sea of Okhotsk off western Russia on Saturday. The alarm was sounded in Germany moments later. A statement by the US military in Europe Monday acknowledged the incident at Ramstein and in the surrounding areas where personnel received computerized notifications. A missile warning was also sounded on Ramstein via a loudspeaker system.

The US military "received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel," according to the statement. "No US aircraft or pilots were scrambled. The missile launch was determined to be part of a regional training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies," the statement from US Air Force Europe-Army Africa read. The statement did not acknowledge the Russian missile launch but multiple defense officials have confirmed to CNN that it occurred. One official said the Russians had issued a "notice to airmen" covering a period of days, warning to stay out of the specific area because of military activity. That is a typical notification procedure.

US Strategic Command was able to quickly confirm the missiles posed no threat, so it is not clear why the warning was triggered, officials said. One official noted the incident is concerning because there is always a potential for miscalculation given tensions with Russia. But there was no indication of a threat this time the official emphasized. After the incident, the US military at Ramstein issued a statement on its Facebook page to the military community in the area.

"Today, the Ramstein Air Base Command Post was notified via an alert notification system of a real-world missile launch in the European theater. The Command Post followed proper procedure and provided timely and accurate notifications to personnel in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. The missile launch was then assessed to be part of a training exercise and not a threat to the KMC area. The situation is all clear. We'd like to thank our Command Post members for their quick response to ensure our people stay informed so they can take the proper safety precautions," the statement said. In 2018, human error was blamed for a false alarm that a missile was heading for Hawaii.

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:49:12 AM

Good morning,

Please see the query below regarding Saturday's Real World AdHoc alert. We believe this needs to be elevated to EUCOM.

//////Begin Query\\\\\\\\

My name is (b) (6) and I am the (b) (6) of the War Zone (<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone>), Ramstein Air Base's official Facebook account made a post today about a curious missile alert. My questions are:

- How many individuals received the initial alert and how long was it before they were informed that it was not a threat and had only been an exercise?
- What country launched the missile in question, from where, and what type was it?
- Is Ramstein aware of any other US bases in the EUCOM AOR that received this information and issued similar alerts?

Any other information about this incident would be greatly appreciated.

//////End Query\\\\\\\\

A short bio on this journalist is as follows:

(b) (6)

Please let us know your thoughts.

Thanks!

V/R,

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Ramstein Air Base, Germany
DSN: (314) 480-9196
Comm: +49 (0)6371 47 9196
Cell: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@dma.mil <noreply@dma.mil>

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:26 AM

To: 86 AW/PA <86AW.PA@us.af.mil>

Subject: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert

This message was sent from the Ramstein Air Base website.

Message From: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Response requested: Yes

Message:

Hi,

My name is (b) (6) and I am the (b) (6) of the War Zone (<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone>). Ramstein Air Base's official Facebook account made a post today about a curious missile alert. My questions are:

- How many individuals received the initial alert and how long was it before they were informed that it was not a threat and had only been an exercise?
- What country launched the missile in question, from where, and what type was it?
- Is Ramstein aware of any other US bases in the EUCOM AOR that received this information and issued similar alerts?

Any other information about this incident would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

HTTP_CMS_CLIENT_IP:
HTTP_X_ARR_LOG_ID: 2ce72ed2-6b97-4ab7-a6a2-f633f5d13cc3
HTTP_ORIGIN: <https://www.ramstein.af.mil>
HTTP_TRUE_CLIENT_IP: 172.58.188.42

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: INFO//CCDR interest in Ramstein Alert
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:45:00 AM
Attachments:

(b) (6)

Sir, (b) (6) called me last night to inform me (b) (6) and (b) (6) have been asking questions about the alert notification the command post made on Saturday and the subsequent post we made on Facebook explaining the alert.

The incident has made international news. CNN, FoxNews, Stars & Stripes and other outlets have posted a story about the incident (attached), and apparently (b) (6) has asked for more information about the sequence of events and why we published the Facebook message.

(b) (6) sent the below message to (b) (6) last night, and (b) (6) still believes we made the right decision to release the Facebook message. I also believe we made the right decision.

You may have already received message traffic on this issue, but wanted to you to be aware of the interest from (b) (6).

v/r

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
86th Airlift Wing
DSN: (314) 480-3852
Commercial: +49 (0)6371 47 3852
Mobile: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:28 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Ramstein Alert

(b) (6)

Sir, here's how the events related to the Warning Alert happened.

- Sat morning—Call came from the 86th PA and from our SDO that a real world alert had gone out and was called “all clear” shortly after.
- I was informed through the PAO, this was raising concerns on many Ramstein online forums and a statement should be made ICW the 86/CC
- I and (b) (6) were asked to review the statement which we did and approved.
- The statement was posted to the Ramstein FB shortly thereafter
- EUCOM PA (b) (6) (was also aware) and I sync'd on the issue Sat afternoon. She was aware of the statement but we did not ask her to approve.
- Sunday was quiet regarding the issue and U-/ PA received no media attention
- Monday, I became aware of the rest of the story once I arrived at work and checked the SIPR traffic.
- Monday---we received multiple media queries on the issue which we responded with a modified version of the Ramstein statement.
- We sync'd with SAF/PA and ECPA also on this issue yesterday as well.

Pending your questions/concerns sir. Thank you.

v/r,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:26:00 PM

Yes, reach out to USAFE PA and see if they want to answer. Thank you.

v/r

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
86th Airlift Wing
DSN: (314) 480-3852
Commercial: +49 (0)6371 47 3852
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:51 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base

(b) (6)

I'm assuming we should send this to USAFE for response since they responded to the previous two queries?

Standing by.

- (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:46 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base

(b) (6)

Please see following media query which came into the CI org box.

V/R,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
86 AW Public Affairs
Ramstein AB, Germany
DSN (314) 480-9196
Comm: from outside Germany (+49) - 6371-47-9196

Comm: within Germany 06371-47-9196

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:16 PM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Media request - alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base

Dear Sir/Madam.

My name is (b) (6), I am a correspondent with the Russian major news agency RIA Novosti (www.ria.ru). I'd appreciate it if you could clarify the situation with the air attack alarm triggered at Ramstein Air Base in Germany (the link to the report in concern is below).

In particular, my questions are:

- Could you confirm the fact that the alarm went off without the "exercise" mode?
- Why did the alarm go off like that? Was it a malfunction or was the situation considered as a real threat?
- Was it related to the Russian Bulava missiles tests?
- Was there a possibility of a response to the potential threat?
- Have there been any engagements with the Russians in this regard?
- Have there been any measures taken to make sure it doesn't happen again?

Here is the link:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/missile-drill-momentarily-triggers-false-air-attack-alarm-at-ramstein-air-base-1.655241>

Earlier I contacted the Pentagon press-service - they suggested that I should contact you directly.

Thank you in advance and take care!

--

Best regards,

(b) (6)

Correspondent

RIA Novosti

Cell: (b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Article on RAB missile alert
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:36:17 PM

Thanks (b) (6) I appreciate you sending me these articles! I'll take your comments about getting the word out to the masses into consideration, as there is always room for improvement. This event serves as a good reminder that we need to continuously educate / remind the masses about AtHoc "Best Practices" and considerations.

(b) (6)

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Ramstein AB, Germany

DSN: 314-480-2121

Comm: 06371-47-2121

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

NIPR (b) (6)

SIPR: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:18 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Article on RAB missile alert

(b) (6) a couple of news articles I thought you might be interested in (below and attached).

Also, after I posted the statement on our Facebook page on Saturday, we received about 180 comments from people. Several said they could not hear or understand the giant voice message on base, they never received the phone alert, or the "all clear" came before "alarm red, MOPP 4" message. One person also recommended having a system to inform the BX and Commissary so they can make an announcement over their intercoms. Otherwise, people in those stores have no idea what's happening outside.

Just FYSA.

v/r

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

86th Airlift Wing

DSN: (314) 480-3852

Commercial: +49 (0)6371 47 3852

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:03 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Article on RAB missile alert

CNN

14 December 2020

Russian Missile Drill Triggers False Alarm at US Military Base in Germany

A Russian military exercise triggered an unusual warning at a critical US military base in Germany on Saturday that ballistic missiles had been launched, according to multiple US defense officials. The warning at Ramstein Air Base resulted in several minutes of uncertainty and alarm until an all-clear was sounded, according to the officials.

The initial assessment is that the missile warning may have been triggered when US intelligence satellites detected a launch. Highly classified US military satellites that track the infrared trail of ballistic missiles determined that a submerged Russian submarine had test fired four intercontinental missiles from its underwater location in the Sea of Okhotsk off western Russia on Saturday. The alarm was sounded in Germany moments later. A statement by the US military in Europe Monday acknowledged the incident at Ramstein and in the surrounding areas where personnel received computerized notifications. A missile warning was also sounded on Ramstein via a loudspeaker system.

The US military "received an alert via a warning notification system of a real-world missile launch. The control center followed proper procedures and acted in a timely manner to provide rapid and accurate notifications to all required personnel," according to the statement. "No US aircraft or pilots were scrambled. The missile launch was determined to be part of a regional training exercise and within minutes the control center again followed proper procedures and provided updated notifications. We consistently and routinely monitor for any threats to our forces and our allies," the statement from US Air Force Europe-Army Africa read. The statement did not acknowledge the Russian missile launch but multiple defense officials have confirmed to CNN that it occurred. One official said the Russians had issued a "notice to airmen" covering a period of days, warning to stay out of the specific area because of military activity. That is a typical notification procedure.

US Strategic Command was able to quickly confirm the missiles posed no threat, so it is not clear why the warning was triggered, officials said. One official noted the incident is concerning because there is always a potential for miscalculation given tensions with Russia. But there was no indication of a threat this time the official emphasized. After the incident, the US military at Ramstein issued a statement on its Facebook page to the military community in the area.

"Today, the Ramstein Air Base Command Post was notified via an alert notification system of a real-world missile launch in the European theater. The Command Post followed proper procedure and provided timely and accurate notifications to personnel in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. The missile launch was then assessed to be part of a training exercise and not a threat to the KMC area. The situation is all clear. We'd like to thank our Command Post members for their quick response to ensure our people stay informed so they can take the proper safety precautions," the statement said. In 2018, human error was blamed for a false alarm that a missile was heading for Hawaii.

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: FOUO\\Command Post Notifications - PA note
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:55:54 PM

Sorry; very short-staffed and catching up. I will send this to our S3/5/7 (Army "command post") and let you know what they say. Thanks!

V/r

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:15 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: FOUO\\Command Post Notifications - PA note
Importance: High

(b) (6),

We had a real world missile alert notification today that directed people to seek shelter and go into MOPP 4. It's all clear now.

We put out a message on FB about this. See below.

Someone on FB asked what about the Army? I guess Army personnel in the KMC did not get any notification?

Does your command post receive missile alerts and send out notifications, either real world or exercise type?

I'd like to respond to the person that the Army has a separate system to receive and pass warning notifications, but I don't know if that is true.

v/r

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

86th Airlift Wing

DSN: [480-3852](tel:480-3852)

Commercial: [+49 \(0\)6371 47 3852](tel:+49(0)6371473852)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Date: Saturday, 12. Dec 2020, 10:41 AM
To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)



Subject: FOUO\Command Post Notifications - PA note

This e-mail contains FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)

Gentlemen,

As promised below is the info (b) (6) and the PA team is putting out to the community. Please refer all inquiries to PA and thank you for your patience and leadership this morning.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

PA Message: "Today, the Ramstein Air Base Command Post was notified via an alert notification system of a real-world missile launch in the European theater. The Command Post followed proper procedure and provided timely and accurate notification to personnel in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. The missile launch was then assessed to be part of a training exercise and not a threat to the KMC area. The situation is all clear. We'd like to thank our Command Post members for their quick response to ensure our people stay informed so they can take the proper safety precautions."

From: (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:33:24 AM

Team,

We are going to forward this up to USAFE PAO because this needs to go to EUCOM.

Let myself or (b) (6) know if you have any questions.

V/R

(b) (6)
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Ramstein Air Base, Germany
DSN: (314) 480-9196
Comm: +49 (0)6371 47 9196
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:49 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert
Importance: High

(b) (6) --
Below is an emailed query from "The War Zone." The journalist, (b) (6), is a free-lance writer who no stranger to researching military subjects.

He is looking for more information about Saturday's event.

Questions:

1. How many individuals received the initial alert and how long was it before they were informed that it was not a threat and had only been an exercise?
2. What country launched the missile in question, from where, and what type was it?
3. Is Ramstein aware of any other US bases in the EUCOM AOR that received this information and issued similar alerts?

A short bio on this journalist is as follows:

(b) (6)

[REDACTED] More can be found here: [REDACTED]

Please let me know how you would like us to respond.

v/r,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@dma.mil <noreply@dma.mil>

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:26 AM

To: 86 AW/PA <86AW.PA@us.af.mil>

Subject: Ramstein Air Base Contact Form: Journalist with questions about Ramstein Air Base missile alert

This message was sent from the Ramstein Air Base website.

Message From: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Response requested: Yes

Message:

Hi,

My name is (b) (6) and I am the (b) (6) of the War Zone (<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone>). Ramstein Air Base's official Facebook account made a post today about a curious missile alert. My questions are:

- How many individuals received the initial alert and how long was it before they were informed that it was not a threat and had only been an exercise?

- What country launched the missile in question, from where, and what type was it?

- Is Ramstein aware of any other US bases in the EUCOM AOR that received this information and issued similar alerts?

Any other information about this incident would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

HTTP_CMS_CLIENT_IP:
HTTP_X_ARR_LOG_ID: 2ce72ed2-6b97-4ab7-a6a2-f633f5d13cc3
HTTP_ORIGIN: <https://www.ramstein.af.mil>