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A. Contemporary Electro-Mechanical Control Systems

Coded switches or permissive action links (PAL) are electromechanical supplements to the administrative controls exercised over nuclear weapon employment. When installed, they make weaponenabling, or access to the weapon itself, dependent upon code possession. DOE-developed coded switches presently in use, are:

Category A PAL (W50-Pershing) - electro-mechanical coded switch with one four-digit code capability.

Category B and B' PAL (W28-4, B43-2, B53-2 and B61-0 bombs and W72-0 Walleye) - specifically designed for use with an aircraft controller mounted in the cockpit. This device incorporates an electro-mechanical switch with one four-digit code capability.

Category D PAL (B61-2, -5 bombs; W70-1, -2, -3 LANCE; W79 and W82 AFAPs) - multiple code coded switch which provides a selective unlock capability with six 6-digit, unlock codes any of which are capable of allowing weapon arming. designed originally for the LANCE warhead, this switch is also. compatible with aircraft cockpit control features.

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B. Combination Locks

Mechnical tumbler locks have a 5-digit combination to prevent unauthorized use of the weapon in the intended mode (W45 and W54 ADMs; W48 and W33 AFAPs; W31 HONEST JOHN and NIKE HERCULES).

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