The Dangers of Hair-Trigger Alert

Lisbeth Gronlund
April 2, 2016
Early Warning Sensors
Nuclear Risks

• Accidental launches

• Unauthorized launches

• Deliberate launches in response to a false alarm
Nuclear Close Calls
November 9, 1979
The Man Who Saved the World

Stanilov Petrov
Sun glint off clouds
These stories of false alarms have focused a searing awareness of the immense peril we face when in mere minutes our leaders must make life-and-death decisions affecting the whole planet.

William Perry, former Secretary of Defense

My Journey at the Nuclear Brink
China’s military pushing for putting missiles on alert
“Barack Obama believes that we should take our nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert... Maintaining this Cold War stance today is unnecessary and increases the risk of an accidental or unauthorized nuclear launch.”

--2008