Response Week 13

Theodore Jagodits

HST 415 / Alex Wellerstein

A random question, did that guy on the podcast that came on, did that man ever get compensated? All he did was ask a question that today would be very reasonable. What happened to him is very tragic and should never have happened. Another question, have there been proposals of changing this system in the past? It doesn't seem like any president has tried changing this.

A new system for command and control would be very difficult. You would want to preserve as much response time as possible in this situation so it cannot be more than 10 people in the decision process. Honestly what I think France has is pretty reasonable. But I would flip the power dynamic. There would be one person that would be as involved in national security as the president that can say we can use nukes. Somebody like the secretary of defense, or maybe a top military official. This guy would be in charge of looking after the nukes and also can say we can launch the nukes. This order then would pass through the president who can veto if he wants. I think removing this power from the power would create less stress for the president and he would only need to say yes or no in the specific moment of an attack. Hopefully the guy in charge of the nukes is not insane like that general described in lecture. Either way he would not be able to launch the nukes on his own. What I imagine in a nuclear strike against the US, is the guy in charge of nukes would give the okay and the president would have to then confirm with the football to actually launch. Does this make sense? I don't know, but it seems better what we have right now and would preserve the speed we would need in a response for a nuclear attack.

The whole scheme with flying live bombs around sounds scary. Then when you take into consideration that these planes are less safe than commercial planes by a lot is big cause for concern. I feel like this operation was never really thought through. A good question would also be why were we flying live bombs around in the first place? The excerpt we watched made this seem very routine, why can't we keep them in a base in the most stable and secure place as possible? I am honestly surprised a bomb hasn't blown up yet by accident. We are very lucky.

The podcast was just kind of sad with that old man who lost everything in his career because he asked questions. Very informative but very sad.