

NUKE BEAT

A source for journalists covering the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

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July 28, 2004

W76

More detail from the Santa Fe New Mexican on [possible problems with the W76](#):

At issue is the metal radiation “case” that surrounds the primary fission bomb and helps direct energy toward a “spark plug.” The spark plug ignites the secondary fusion bomb, which provides the bulk of the explosive yield.

If the case is too thin, as alleged by this group of scientists, it could deform and rupture before the secondary bomb goes off and significantly decrease the overall yield. The proposed redesign would reduce the power of the weapon by about 40 percent while strengthening its case, according to the scientist.

Posted by John Fleck at July 28, 2004 07:40 AM