

MULTIBURST ENVIRONMENT - PROJECT DIPOLE WEST

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A better understanding of the blast environment surrounding a multiburst detonation was gained through an experimental research program known as Dipole West. Two spherical high explosive charges were used in a vertical and horizontal array - detonated simultaneously and a vertical array - detonated non-simultaneously. Data was acquired on the use and expansion of fireballs and on the interaction of shock waves. The path of the triple point and the Mach region were identified for two types of real reflecting surfaces and for an ideal reflecting surface. The absence of a Mach stem between the charges of the 5 and 10 ms non-simultaneous shots was observed. Comparisons with theory showed a good correlation.