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By Authority of
The Chief of Staff
Air Force

AFAOC

Col Armstrong/mkm/2845

Wrtm 1 Nov 46 Date Initials

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF:

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SUBJECT: Army Air Forces Participation in the Atomic Bomb Program

DISCUSSION

1. AAF participation in the atomic bomb program has been monitored by this office.

2. Late in 1945, it was determined that the AAF lacked personnel trained in certain atomic bomb technical specialties. In early 1946, six experienced AAF bombardment pilots were trained by Manhattan Project as "weaponers" (Bomb Commanders). A Bomb Commander is a pilot who has a thorough knowledge of technical details of the atomic bomb, an appreciation of the strategic situation, the weather, the performance of the airplane, and normally is in command of the atomic bomb-carrying airplanes.

3. In August 1946, it was determined that:

a. AAF participation in the atomic bomb program should proceed along two lines, namely:

(1) Continued coordinated research and development.

(2) AAF operational employment of the present or future standard bombs.

b. There was a definite requirement for improved coordination between the AAF and Manhattan Project activities.

4. Action was taken to correct the situation cited in paragraphs 3a(2) and 3b above as follows:

a. The six trained bomb commanders were reassigned to the several headquarters within the Strategic Air Command, to Headquarters of Air Materiel Command, and one as Special Assistant to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 3 of this headquarters. This was done to make available to the commanders concerned all general technical knowledge of the atomic bomb.

b. A conference of representatives of the interested staff sections of this headquarters, of the major commands concerned, and of

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By: Air Force Declassification Office
7 May 2010

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Manhattan Project for the purpose of "improving the coordination between AAF and Manhattan Project" was called. The report of the working committee of this conference is attached as Tab A.

5. No discussion of AAF participation in the atomic bomb program can be attempted without an appreciation of the special security policies and practices involved as follows:

a. Manhattan Project operates under a security directive received direct from the President. This makes the Commanding General, Manhattan Project, solely responsible for the security of atomic bomb information and installations.

b. In keeping with this directive, Manhattan Project controls the dissemination of project information to other agencies of the country.

c. If, in order to perform its mission, the AAF requires classified project information, approval for the receipt of this information must be given by Manhattan Project.

d. As stipulated by Manhattan Project, there can be no interchange of classified information within the AAF unless all personnel having access to that information have been cleared previously by Manhattan Project to receive the information.

e. AAF security policy in this regard as published in AAF Letters 46-22 and 46-22a (Tab B) conforms to that of Manhattan Project. Manhattan Project considers this policy as sound, but feels that the execution of the policy leaves much to be desired. At present the Air Provost Marshal, in collaboration with Manhattan Project, is preparing appropriate directives and procedure manuals which, when issued and enforced, will correct this condition.

6. It is concluded that:

a. The AAF, in order to implement participation in the operational aspects of the atomic bomb program, have a requirement for an internal structure and working procedures which, under existing security policies, will permit the AAF to:

- (1) Obtain necessary atomic bomb information;
- (2) Transmit necessary atomic bomb information;
- (3) Accomplish effective staff work on matters pertaining to the project;

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- (4) Arrive at command decisions pertaining to the project;
- (5) Make recommendations to higher authority as to present and potential air capabilities with atomic weapons.

b. Manhattan Project approval for the release of classified project information and the security controls involved must be given before AAF participation in the program can be increased.

c. The proposals for internal structure, working procedures, and requirements for information as delineated in Tab A are the minimum required for effective AAF participation in the project at this time.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

- 1. Approval of the attached committee report (Tab A).
- 2. Signature of R&R to Air Provost Marshal (Tab C).
- 3. Signature of R&R to Air Adjutant General (Tab D).
- 4. Signature of letter to Commanding General, Manhattan Project, (Tab E).

- 5 Incls.
- 1. Tab A
 - 2. Tab B
 - 3. Tab C
 - 4. Tab D
 - 5. Tab E

Atomic Intelligence Security Plan

Air Provost Marshal, AC/AS-1

Chief of Air Staff

1. Manhattan Project has indicated that prior to the implementation of any plan for the dissemination of atomic weapon information to the AAF, adequate security measures must be established within the AAF.
2. AAF Regulations 46-22, dated 27 June 1946, and 46-22A, dated 30 August 1946, provide necessary policy directive upon which security measures may be based.
3. It is desired that you expedite preparation of necessary plans and directives for the supervision and enforcement of atomic weapon security within the AAF as established by the above-named regulations.

Publication of Hq Office Instruction No. 20- , Establishing the Office of
Special Assistant to the Commanding General AAF (Atomic Bomb)

Publications Division
Office of the Air Adjutant General

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Chief of Air Staff

It is requested that the attached Headquarters Office Instruction No. 20-
establishing the Office of Special Assistant to the Commanding General AAF
(Atomic Bomb) be published.

1 Incl.

1. Proposed HQ OI

HQ OFFICE INSTRUCTION)
NO. 20-)

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON,

(This HQ OI is directive upon Hq APO)

ORGANIZATION

Establishment of the Office of Special Assistant to the
Commanding General AAF (Atomic Bomb)

1. There is hereby announced the establishment of the Office of Special Assistant to the Commanding General, AAF (Atomic Bomb).
2. The Special Assistant, with regard to AAF participation in the atomic program (exclusive of research and development) will:
 - a. Advise the Commanding General, AAF, on matters pertaining to the program.
 - b. Effect liaison between the Commanding General, AAF, and other headquarters or agencies.
 - c. Monitor and coordinate AAF participation in the program

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SPAATZ:

IRA C. EAKER
Lieutenant General, United States Army
Deputy Commander, Army Air Forces

OFFICIAL:

H. B. CULTON
Colonel, Air Corps
Air Adjutant General

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8th AF

AFACX Col Gibson/vc.j/71769/13 June 46

13 June 1946

SUBJECT: Mission of the 58th Bombardment wing

TO: Commanding General, Strategic Air Command, Bolling Field, D.C.

1. This headquarters has approved the concept, as described in the attached charts, of one WH Wing being the initial unit of the atomic striking force of the Army Air Forces. The mission of this wing and other wings to follow is for this unit to be capable of immediate and sustained VLR offensive operations in any part of the world, either independently or in cooperation with land and naval forces, utilizing the latest and most advanced weapons. As an additional mission of this wing, assistance must be given the Manhattan District in the air testing phases of its mission and provisions made for Army Air Forces liaison with the Manhattan District on policies pertaining to the use of atomic bombs and information pertaining thereto. As will be noted in the attached chart (Tab A), the Strategic Air Command will eventually pass this portion of its mission to the Air Materiel Command. The time of such transition of mission is dependent upon the speed and facility with which the Strategic Air Command can absorb sufficient information on the atomic bomb to fulfill the mission of tactical efficiency in the employment of the atomic bomb.

2. The following action has been taken by this headquarters to effect the organization of the 58th wing:

a. Adjutant General letters have been published establishing this wing at 100% strength in accordance with organization attached as Tab B.

b. Preparation of training directives to the Strategic Air Command setting forth the training requirements to govern in this wing's operations

c. Preparation of the necessary requirements program to supply proper equipment, Silverplate and otherwise, to organize the wing in accordance with Tab A.

d. Necessary action to establish the screening priority to assign all personnel available now participating in the Crossroads Project to the Strategic Air Command on permanent change of station.

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3. It is directed that the Strategic Air Command submit a monthly report to this headquarters (attention: AC/AS-3) concerning the manning, training, and overall progress of this unit. Particular emphasis should be placed on any difficulty arising from lack of personnel, lack of equipment, or lack of sufficient clarity in directives to the Strategic Air Command from this headquarters. This report will be in addition to the normal statistical control reports.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SPAATZ:

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TABS A & B

CURTIS E. LEMAY
Major General, US Army
Deputy Chief of Air Staff for
Research and Development

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