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**Training of Weaponsers**

AC/AS-5  
Attn: Brig. Gen Kissner

20 Nov 46

AC/AS-3

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Col Armstrong/do/2845

1. Inclosed find Memorandum for Record, above subject, which is self explanatory.
2. Necessary action is being initiated by this office to arrange for the air-crew training of Corps of Engineers personnel and also to provide required numbers of AAF personnel who have the requisite qualifications.

Incl:  
Memo for Record,  
subj as abv.

JOHN G. ARMSTRONG  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Special Asst. AC/AS-3

DECLASSIFIED  
By: Air Force Declassification Office  
10 June 2010

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By _____ of _____ Army Air Forces	
20 November 1946	<i>JJA</i>
Date	Initials

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Training of Weaponers

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1. Reference is made to Memoranda for the Record, this office, subject: "Training of Bomb Commanders and Weaponers" dated 14 November 1946, and subject: "Training of Bomb Commanders" dated 19 November 1946.

2. On 19 November 1946 the undersigned conferred with Colonel G. Dorland, Commanding Officer, Sandia Base, Manhattan Project, and Lt. Colonel D. B. Parker, Military Application Section, Manhattan Project, for the purpose of resolving details of training of Weaponers by Manhattan Project and the AAF.

3. Discussion of the aircrew flight training of officers of the Corps of Engineers, their rating as technical observers, and subsequent transfer to the AAF was deferred until such a time as an AAF procedure in this regard has been established.

4. Manhattan Project representatives stated that within three weeks (10 December 1946) sufficient officers of the Corps of Engineers, technically trained as Weaponers, will be available to meet the initial AAF "emergency requirement" for manning combat crews.

5. Discussion of the technical training of AAF personnel as Weaponers by Manhattan Project proceeded as follows:

a. Course of Instruction.

On the assumption that AAF students entering the Weaponers school will be radar or electronics officers, it was agreed that the technical training should consist of 12 weeks of instruction at the Sandia Base, New Mexico. This training can be initiated by Manhattan Project on 20 January 47. Each class would consist of 10 students. Normally, there will be no over-lap of classes under instruction. In an emergency it is possible for 2 classes to be under instructions simultaneously, i.e., to enter at 6 week intervals.

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b. Entrance Requirements.

Manhattan Project expressed concern over the general caliber of junior AAF officers who had been matriculated and graduated from their Weapons school to date. The undersigned informed Manhattan Project that in the immediate future so long as it was required that matriculating students be radar or electronics officers little improvement could be expected, insofar as IQ, efficiency ratings and general suitability as superior career officer material are concerned. Further discussion on this score led to the statement by Manhattan Project that if the AAF were to provide them with students who were college graduates (technical major), definitely high superior regular army officers destined for a career in the "atomic force," that a course of instruction of 24 weeks duration could be established which would technically qualify these individuals as Weapons. The additional 12 weeks of instruction would be devoted to basic electronics and radar subjects. Hence, no electronic-radar background would be required of entering students. Manhattan Project further stated that under this proposed 24 weeks course of instruction, it will be possible to over-lap classes 12 weeks. The net effect of such a program would be to delay the completion of the AAF training program by 12 weeks, but at the same time it would provide graduate Weapons of a much higher caliber and hence of more benefit to the AAF. In view of the fact that the AAF "Emergency Requirement" has been met as indicated in Paragraph 4, above (an interim measure), the undersigned agreed to exert every effort within the AAF to implement this 24 week program.

JOHN G. ARMSTRONG  
Colonel, Air Corps  
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