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Lt. Col. J. Anston/1b/71769
written 19 Apr 48

AFACK

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

SUBJECT: Conference on Reorganization of the 58th Wing

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DISCUSSION

1. In order to implement the plan for establishment of a strategic striking force as approved by your office on 7 January 1948, a conference on reorganization and deployment of the 58th Wing is now being held in this Headquarters. This conference convened on April 15 with representatives of Headquarters Army Air Forces, Strategic Air Command, Fifteenth Air Force, and 58th Wing in attendance. Initial conferences were devoted to determining the mission of the 58th Wing and a general plan of organization and deployment of this wing as shown in Tab A. Consistent with the proposed mission of this wing, subsequent conferences are now being held for the purpose of preparing tables of organization and equipment, a complete manning program, and a detailed plan of deployment of this wing both in the US and overseas.

2. It has been impractical to present detailed plans for the deployment of this wing prior to this time due to lack of experiences in these operations. As a result of the Crossroads Project, detailed plans can now be presented and it is particularly desirable at this time that the mission and general plan of organization and deployment of this wing be determined in order that equipment and experience accrued in the Crossroads Project can be utilized to the maximum in our regular Air Force Units. This is of immediate importance inasmuch as retention of Crossroads personnel in the 58th Wing is dependent upon the permanent bases, the manning priority and the mission of this wing. The attached Tab A is a general plan outlining the mission, organization and deployment of this wing. Consideration of this plan is desirable at the present time in order that detailed plans for the organization and manning of this wing can be completed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

- 1. Approval of the attached plan.

Partridge

Incl -
Tab A

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Declassified IAW E.O. 12958 by the
Air Force Declassification Office and
Approved for Public Release.

Date: 10 JUL 2008

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ORGANIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE
58TH BOMBARDMENT WING

1. Purpose

Consistent with our national policy it is unlikely that we will attack any nation until we have first been attacked. In such an event, we must have available a unit trained and capable of immediate retaliation against the aggressor nation with our most destructive weapon to effect as much or more destruction than we experienced. It is believed that the Army Air Forces should immediately organize, man, equip, and train one strategic wing capable of immediate offensive action against any enemy target. This organization should be so organized that its deployment anywhere in the world can be accomplished within the shortest possible length of time. Consequently, the following elements will have to be considered: The strategic location of bases throughout the world, so that with our present equipment we will have within our radius of action all important targets of any potential enemy. Also, we must organize this force and man and equip it to full T/O & E strength so that it will be ready to move to any place at any time and go immediately into combat operation. In order to accomplish this, a unit - the 58th Bombardment Wing - must be immediately manned, equipped, and trained.

2. Mission

- a. To be capable of immediate and sustained very long range 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.
- b. To assist the Manhattan District in the Air Testing phases of its mission and to provide Air Force liaison with the Manhattan District on policies pertaining to the use of atomic bombs and information pertaining thereto.

3. Organization

- a. Wing Headquarters with augmentation as required by the mission of this wing.
- b. Three (3) Bombardment Groups (WG) with integrated base and service functions. Each Group to consist of three (3) combat squadrons and necessary Base and Service Units. *Whatever is required as later determined.*
- c. A Flight Test Unit (presently the 428th Base Unit) to assist the Manhattan District in Air Testing and to act as AAF liaison agency with Manhattan District.
- d. A special transport flight for the transport of atomic bombs, technical equipment, and scientific personnel.
- e. A special ordnance company for the purpose of assembly and preparation for delivery of atomic bombs, and furnishing necessary expert atomic bomb personnel to the Combat Groups.

*cc to
planning
purpose*