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AFACX Col Gibson/vcj/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 VH 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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Date: 10 JUL 2008

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See 3-1-47

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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:

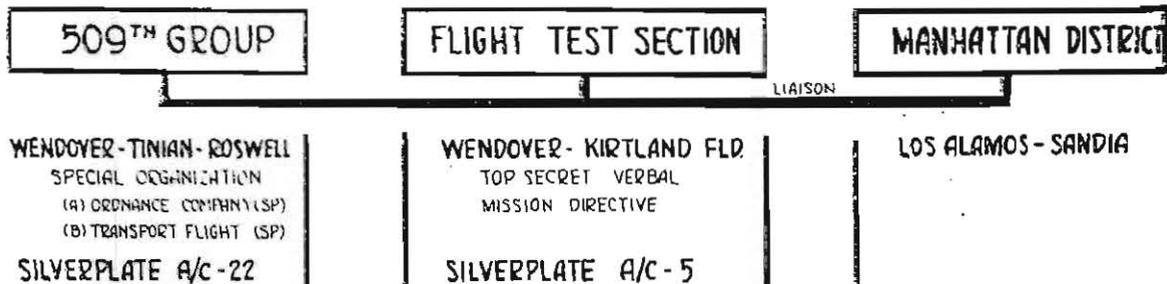
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TABS A & B

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

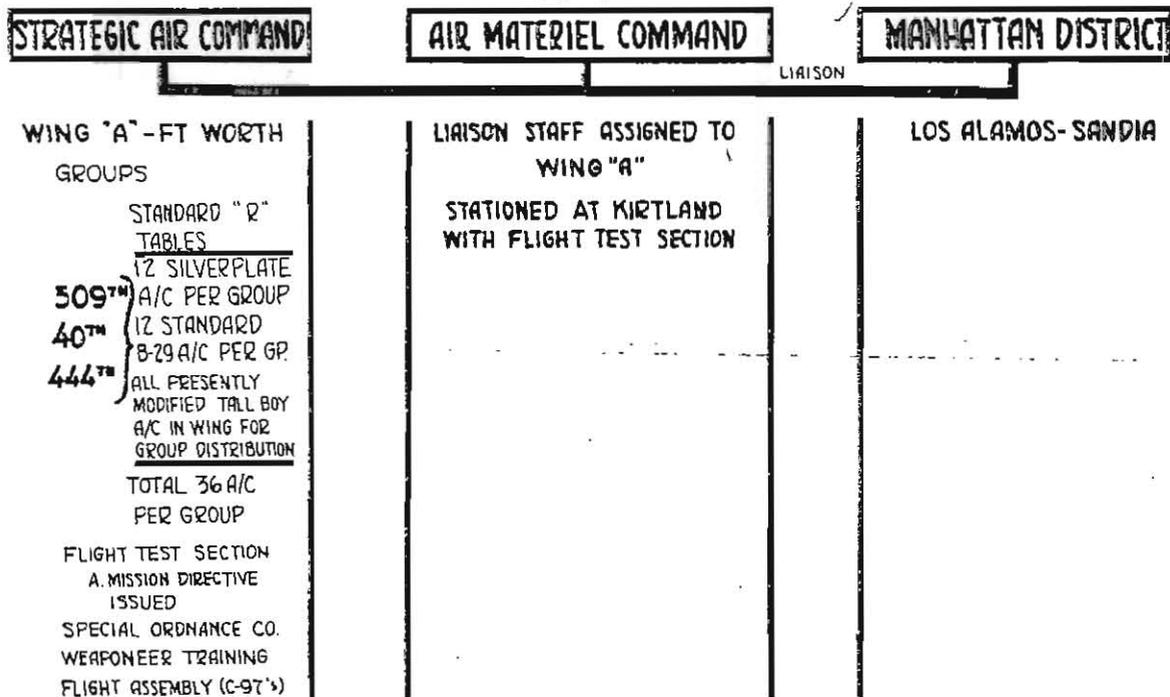
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DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND TO EMPLOY ATOMIC BOMBS

— 1945 —



— 1946 —



— 1947 - 1948 —

