

284.3

22

SUBJECT: MOS's for Personnel engaged on A-Bomb Activities

TO: AC/AS-3, Attention: Colonel Armstrong

DATE 4 November 1946

FROM: Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research and Development

COMMENT NO. 3
Col Wilson/fj/6742

For preparation of necessary papers in accordance with Comments 1 and 2.

Incl:
n/c.

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

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

Date: 11 JUL 2008

#125

MOS's for Personnel engaged in A-Bomb Activities

Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research & Development

1 November 1946

2

AC/AS-1

1. It is noted that Comment No. 1 recommends that the four MOS's requested in the basic communication be consolidated into two MOS's. Such consolidations of duplicating MOS's are in accord with the Army Air Forces policy of maintaining broad classifications and avoiding unnecessary specialization.

2. As your office is familiar with the requirements and qualifications of the officers engaged in atomic bomb activities, it is requested that the proposed atomic MOS's be redrafted in accordance with Comment No. 1 and submitted for the normal processing procedures as outlined in Headquarters, Office Instruction 80-26, 4 September 1946.

3. The Adjutant General's Office is presently engaged in an overall Army-wide job analysis survey. In order that the jobs peculiar to units utilizing atomic weapons may be analyzed, it is further requested that this office be advised as to the bases and units engaged in missions requiring atomic weapons.

1 Incl
n/c

LEON W. JOHNSON
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Deputy, AC/AS-1

MOS's for Personnel engaged in A-Bomb Activities.

AC/AS-1

31 Jul 46

Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research & Development Col Wilson/bt/S144 ²

1. Forwarded for your consideration and action.
2. The comments of this office are as follows:

a. The requirement for MOS's covering personnel concerned with the operations and technical aspects of the atom bomb is recognized. It is felt however, that the four categories recommended in the attached letter, break the subject down into fields which are too highly specialized. A similar situation existed in the early stages of Radar development and employment; the unnecessarily large number of MOS set up for this activity created narrow fields of limited future and added unnecessary confusion.

b. The specialties of Bomb Commander and Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Rated) should be combined under one MOS and a new title such as "Atomic Bomb Officer" devised to cover both.

c. The specialty of Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Non-rated) is not believed necessary at this time. This specialty clearly is recommended to cover officers of the type now assigned by the Corps of Engineers to liaison duty with the 59th Wing.

d. The Weaponsman (Rated), or Bomb Technician, certainly is required and should be recognized by MOS. In addition to his very extensive ground duties, this individual has a great responsibility in flight. In the opinion of this office, he should be a commissioned rather than a warrant officer. And since he is a member of the combat crew, he should be rated (perhaps rated as some form of aircraft observer, if the establishment of a new rating is not desirable).

¹ incl
Ltr fr SAC, sub:above
dtd 25 June 1946

CURTIS S. LEMAY
Major General, USA
Deputy Chief of Air Staff for
Research and Development

17 July 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General LeMay
Colonel Wilson

SUBJECT: MOS's For Atomic Bomb Personnel

1. The attached paper, reference new MOS's, was handed to me by McTague of AC/AS-3, who said, "What do you think about this stuff?" McTague said that he had talked to Kenny Gibson and that Kenny had told him, "It was submitted by the 58th Wing, let's approve it." As I mentioned the other day, I am a bit concerned about going hog-wild over a new specialty and dreaming up jobs and MOS's with such gay abandon. At the expense of being trite, I reiterate that we did this very thing with Radar (starting in 1941 and continuing to the present) to our utter and ever-lasting confusion.

2. As pointed out in Para. 2, of the letter, it is unfortunate that "The job descriptions outlined below are presented in very general terms so as not to violate the laws of security". I know, however, that John Armstrong furnished the data contained in this letter and certainly, when he comes through Washington, could bring us up to date on a detailed job description.

3. Let us examine the letter, specialty by specialty:

a. Bomb Commander

I have no argument with this specialty and I feel that in Armstrong's group, of six pilots, we have exactly the right type of person who should be assigned to this job.

b. The Weaponeer (Bomb Technician) (Rated)

As you know, my opinion is that the present bomb is highly over-engineered and over-gadgetized. Be that as it may, it is the only bomb we have and we must live with it. I agree that with the present bomb, there is a need for such a person as the job description describes. In addition to his very extensive technical ground duties, he has a very great responsibility in flight. He should be, in my opinion, a commissioned officer (not a Warrant Officer); Being a member of the combat crew, he should certainly be a rated officer (probably some form of aircraft observer).

*Contingency notes
Return to C-1*

Memo to General LeMay, Colonel Wilson, dd 17 July 46.


c. Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Rated)

It appears to me that this person requires exactly the same type of background and training as does the Bomb Commander, and indeed could be, and in my opinion, should be the same person. Gibson argues the point that the Bomb Commander must be assigned to "an Atomic Bomb VHB Group" but that the Atomic Bomb Staff Officer need not be. I feel that this point is of little consequence and does not warrant an additional MOS to confuse us the more.

d. Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Non-rated)

I do not at all understand the need for this person. I appreciate your explanation that the specialty has been proposed to take care of such an officer as the ~~Engineer~~ Officer assigned to Armstrong's gang. But aside from the Engineer's Insignia on his collar, he is no better (and ^{much} less) qualified than Armstrong or any one of his five pilot colleagues. Let us procrastinate on this specialty until our policy differences with Manhattan District are better resolved.

4. I would like to point out that much of my thinking is tempered by the fact that atomic bombs and atomic war-heads will never be a "dime-a-dozen." During this past war, it was known at the start that we could go into phenomenal and astronomical production on radar equipment. However, where we measured radar jobs by the thousands, it appears that this country has the potentiality to measure atomic bomb jobs only by the dozens. In my opinion, we must limit these atomic bomb jobs to the most select and highly trained tactical and technical personnel in the AAF, and if we do, we will not need but a bare minimum of MOS's.


W. M. CANTERBURY
Colonel, GSC

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
 Bolling Field
 Washington 20, D. C.

25 June 1946

SAC 210.01 (25 Jun 46)

SUBJECT: MOS's for "Bomb Commander", "Weaponeer" (Bomb Technician),
 "Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Rated)", and "Atomic Bomb Staff
 Officer (Non-rated)"

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
 ATTENTION: AC/AS-1, Personnel (AFFMP-11)

1. In accordance with par 505.2, AAF Manual 35-0-1, MOS's for the following specialities are hereby requested:

- a. Bomb Commander
- b. Weaponeer (Bomb Technician)
- c. Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Rated)
- d. Atomic Bomb Staff Officer (Non-rated)

2. It is considered desirable to point out that due to the classified nature of the work of the atomic bomb specialists for whom MOS's are requested, the job descriptions outlined below are presented in very general terms so as not to violate the rules of security.

3. The job descriptions listed herein have been compiled by the 58th Bomb Wing and the MOS's requested are considered necessary due to the radically new type of combat equipment over which officers of indicated MOS's will have supervision.

- a. BOMB COMMANDER:
 - (1) Has command of bomb carrying aircraft while on a strategical mission employing the atomic bomb. Makes decision as to disposition of bomb in case of emergency.
 - (2) Is familiar with construction and principles of operation of the atomic bomb.
 - (3) Must have a wide knowledge of strategic bombing, including the destructive capabilities of the atomic bomb against various classes of targets.
 - (4) Must be a rated pilot of very heavy bombardment aircraft (1093). Must be thoroughly acquainted with capabilities of the aircraft as pertains to range, operating conditions, etc.

Basic: Ltr SAC to AAF, subj: MOS's for Bomb Comdr, Weaponeer (Bomb Tech), Atomic Bomb Staff Off (Rated), and Atomic Bomb Staff Off (Non-rated).

- (5) Has a knowledge of the principles of bombing and operation of the bombing equipment, including bomb release mechanism.
- (6) Is assigned to an atomic bomb VHB group (TO & E 1-112R).
- (7) Is a commissioned officer.
- (8) Must be physically qualified for combat flight duty under the provisions of AAF Regulation 50-7.

(Requirements of par. 505.2 of AAF Manual 35-0-1, are met by the above job description as follows: 505.2 c(1) (a) & (d) - (1) above; 505.2 c (1)(b) & (c) - (2) above; 505.2 c (1) (e) - (3), (4) and (5) above; 505.2 d(1) - a above; 505.2 (2) - (6) above; 505.2 d(3) - (7) above; 505.2 d(4) - (1) above; 505.2 d (5)(a) - (1) above, insofar as security will permit; 505.2 (d)(5)(b) - (2)(3)(4) & (5) above; 505.2 d (5) (c) - (4) above; insofar as security will permit; 505.2 d (5)(d) (1) - (1) above; 505.2 d (5)(e)(1) - (1) above; 505.2 d (5)(e)(2) - (4) above insofar as security will permit; 505.2 d(6) - (8) above)

b. WEAPONEEER (RATED):

- (1) Ascertain, before and during flight, that the atomic bomb is prepared for a drop. During flight, acts as advisor to the BOMB COMMANDER.
- (2) Must have satisfactorily completed a course of on-the-job training as WEAPONEEER.
- (3) Is assigned to an atomic bomb VHB group (TO & E 1-112R).
- (4) Is a commissioned officer or warrant officer.
- (5) Must be physically qualified for combat flight duty under the provisions of AAF Regulation 50-7.

(Requirements of par. 505.2 of AAF Manual 35-0-1 are met by the above job description as follows: 505.2 c(1)(a), (b), (c) & (d) - 1 above; 505.2 d(1)(e) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(1) - b above; 505.2 d(2) - (3) above; 505.2 d (3) - (4) above; 505.2 d(4) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5)(a) - (1) above insofar as security will permit; 505.2 d(5) (b) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(5) (c) above; -2 above; 505.2 d(5) (d) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(5) (e) (1) & (2) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(6) - (5) above.)

Basic: Ltr SAC to AAF, subj: MOS's for Bomb Comdr, Weaponeer (Bomb Tech), Atomic Bomb Staff off (Rated), and Atomic Bomb Staff Off (Non-rated).

c. ATOMIC BOMB STAFF OFFICER (RATED):

- (1) Is advisor on all matters pertaining to the atomic bomb to the Commanding General in a Wing (TO & E 1-160-1) or higher headquarters of an atomic bomb unit.
- (2) Is familiar with the construction and principles of operation of the atomic bomb.
- (3) Must have a wide knowledge of strategic bombing, including destructive capabilities of the atomic bomb against various classes of targets.
- (4) Must be thoroughly acquainted with the capabilities of the atomic bomb carrying aircraft used by the unit as pertains to range, operating conditions, etc.
- (5) Has a knowledge of the principles of bombing and operation of bombing equipment, including bomb release mechanism.
- (6) Must be physically qualified for combat flight duty under the provisions of AAF Regulation 50-7.

(Requirements of par. 505.2 of AAF Manual 35-0-1 are met by the above job description as follows: 505.2 c(1)(a) & (c) - (1) above; 505.2 c(1)(b) & (d) - (2) above; 505.2 c(1)(e) - (2) (3) (4) and (5) above; 505.2 d(1) - c above; 505.2 d(2)-(1) above; 505.2 d(3) - c above; 505.2 d(4) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5) (a) - (1) above insofar as security permits; 505.2 d(5) (b) - (2) above (3) (4) & (5) above; 505.2 d(5) (c) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(5) (d)(1) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5) (e) (1) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5) (e) (2) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(6) - (6) above.)

d. ATOMIC BOMB STAFF OFFICER (NON-RATED)

- (1) Is advisor on technical matters pertaining to the atomic bomb to the Commanding General in a Wing (TO & E 1-160-1) or higher headquarters of an atomic bomb unit,
- (2) Is familiar with the construction and principles of operation of the atomic bomb.
- (3) Has a knowledge of the destructive capabilities of the atomic bomb against various classes of targets.
- (4) Must be physically qualified for overseas service.

Ltr SAC to AAF, subject: MOS's for Bomb Comdr, Weaponeer (Bomb Tech), Atomic Bomb staff Off (Rated), and Atomic Bomb Staff Off (Non-Rated).

(Requirements of par. 505.2 of AAF Manual 35-0-1 are met by the above job description as follows: 505.2 c(1)(a) & (c) - (1) above; 505.2 c(1)(b) & (d) - (2) above; 505.2 c(1)(e) - (2) & (3) above; 505.2 d(1) - d above; 505.2 d(2) - (1) above; 505.2 d(3) - d above; 505.2 d(4) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5)(a) - (1) above insofar as security permits; 505.2 d(5)(b) (2) & (3) above; 505.2 d(5)(c) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(5)(d)(1) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5)(e)(1) - (1) above; 505.2 d(5)(e) (2) - omitted for security reasons; 505.2 d(6) - (4) above.)

4. It is not felt that any special insignia will be required for officers holding the above MOS with the exception of Weaponeer. In order that it will not be possible to single such officer out as being specially trained, it is recommended that the Weaponeer be authorized to wear aircraft observer wings.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

s/s

JAMES R. WEBB, JR.
Captain, Air Corps
Acting Asst Adj Gen