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By Authority	General
The	Arms
Date	Initials

SUBJECT: Army Air Forces-Manhattan Project Coordination

TO: Commanding General
Manhattan Project
P.O. Box 2610
Washington, D.C.

1. Reference is made to the conference held 3 September 1946 between representatives of your headquarters and personnel of the interested agencies of the Army Air Forces.

2. As a result of this conference, a working committee was appointed to develop a plan for the coordination of Army Air Forces and Manhattan Project activities. Personnel from your headquarters attended all the meetings of this committee as advisors.

3. The final report of this committee is approved except for the recommended establishment within this headquarters of the office of "Special Assistant to the Commanding General (Atomic Bomb)." The functions of that recommended office, as described in the attached report, will be performed by the Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research and Development.

4. Your comments on and/or concurrence with the attached report are requested.

Incl:
Rpt of Committee

DECLASSIFIED
By: Air Force Declassification Office
7 May 2010

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15 August 1946
Reissued 7 October 1946

JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

D I R E C T I V E

FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

ORGANIZATION

1. The Committee on Atomic Energy is established as an agency of the Joint Research and Development Board (JRDB) in order that the charter of the Board may be implemented in the field of atomic energy.

OBJECTIVE

2. The fundamental purpose of the Committee on Atomic Energy shall be the continuing study, evaluation, improvement, and allocation of research and development programs of military applications of atomic energy in relation to the overall aims of the national defense effort, and to the available and potential scientific information, in order that optimum contribution may be made toward the mission of the Armed Services.

MEMBERSHIP

3. The Committee on Atomic Energy shall consist of
 - a. Three civilian members, including the chairman, appointed by the chairman of the JRDB.
 - b. Three members appointed by the Secretary of War.
 - c. Three members appointed by the Secretary of the Navy.

Members shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors are appointed. (To provide close liaison of this Committee with the Atomic Energy Commission, it is considered desirable that whenever possible, members of the Military Liaison Committee be designated as members of the Committee on Atomic Energy).

4. A deputy to substitute with plenary powers for each member shall be designated by the appropriate appointing authority. Appointments of members of the Committees and their deputies are subject to the approval of the Board.

PROCEDURE

5. The Committee on Atomic Energy shall be encouraged to function as an independent entity within the limits of its terms of reference. In accordance with the Rules of the Board the Committee is authorized:

- a. To employ professional and other personnel as necessary to discharge its responsibilities under a budget authorized by the Board through its Executive Secretary.
 - b. To establish its own administrative procedures.
 - c. To organize its own secretariat.
 - d. To establish such supporting panels and consultant agencies as it may require.
6. The Executive Secretary is designated to act for the Board in administrative, budgetary, personnel and procedural matters in relationships between the committee and the JRDB.
7. In order that the Committee may fulfill essential functions
- a. as an informative agency,
 - b. as a representative agency providing full consideration of viewpoints of active operating agencies,
 - c. as an executive and judicial agency,
- a major agency of the Army and Navy having direct interest in the functions of the Committee, and not represented by a regular member, may designate a qualified representative to act as an associate member as specified by the Rules of the Board.
8. Action of the Committee shall be effectuated in accordance with the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Board.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

9. In pursuit of its stated objective under the charter of the Board, the Committee on Atomic Energy shall:
- a. (1) Obtain complete information as required on progress, programs, plans, and budgets in the field of military applications of atomic energy, considering information from United States and foreign sources.
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 - (2) Obtain through the Policy Council of the JRDB information on such aspects of overall planning for national defense as may be needed in formulating an adequate atomic energy program.
 - b. Analyze and evaluate this information in order to
 - (1) Focus constant emphasis upon the major goals and major problems in the field of military application of atomic energy.
 - (2) Assess the adequacy of programs and plans directed toward solving these problems and achieving these goals, including consideration

of the merit, and effectiveness with which individual projects and programs are handled.

- (3) Determine the presence of undesirable duplication of effort in the field of military applications of atomic energy, with due regard to the responsibility for fostering competition where the added progress achieved thereby justifies the added expense.
 - (4) Determine the presence of serious gaps which exist in the program.
 - (5) Assess the adequacy of facilities, personnel and equipment currently available and estimate future requirements.
 - (6) Appraise the degree of coordination in programs for military application of atomic energy including that reflected in budget requests.
- c.
- (1) Present surveys, informative studies and digests of general value.
 - (2) Inform the ^{Policy} Council of JRDB as to the implications upon plans, operations and strategy of new weapons, equipment and techniques in the field of atomic energy.
 - (3) Inform the JRDB of such findings as it may require to implement its charter in the field of atomic energy.
- d. In accordance with regular procedures of the Board:
- (1) Determine policies for increasing the effectiveness with which research and development in the field of atomic energy will contribute to strong and unified national defense.
 - (2) Allocate, and when desirable reallocate, responsibility between the Services for research and development projects in the field of atomic energy and for new activities within the field which should receive emphasis, considering optimum employment of personnel and facilities, relative importance, operational and tactical requirements, new developments, and relative skill and effectiveness in conduct of projects.
 - (3) Specify means whereby maximum advantage may be taken of critical resources and new advances, solution of problems may be speeded, undesirable duplication, waste or neglect may be avoided, and liaison, cooperation and direct dealing among agencies may be furthered.

10. The Committee on Atomic Energy shall function in close collaboration with the Military Liaison Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission, and within the limits of legislative procedures established by the Congress.

By direction of the Board:



L. V. BERKNER
Executive Secretary

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