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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

- (1) Air Installations Division, AC/AS-4
- (2) Office of Air Engineer, AC/AS-4
- (3) Office of the Air Surgeon, AC/AS-1
- (4) Air Chemical Office, AC/AS-4

DATE: 12 Sept 46

COMMENT NO. 1

Lt Col Maupin/gz/72936

FROM: Requirements Division, AC/AS-3

1. Insofar as passive defense against the atomic bomb is concerned, there are three phenomena that bear consideration:

- a. Heat
- b. Blast
- c. Poison (radioactivity)

It is apparent that against atomic heat and blast, the only effective passive countermeasures will be those defenses that can be prepared before an atomic explosion, such as dispersion, underground installations, etc. Pre-explosion countermeasures against radioactivity can probably also be taken. However, this office also visualizes a requirement for the investigation of a defense system against radioactivity after an atomic explosion. Prior to a statement of specific requirements, a more thorough knowledge of the effects of nuclear radioactive materials is required. While the responsibilities for such a defense have not yet been fixed, it is a preliminary assumption that the AAF will be responsible for its own installations against atomic radioactivity.

2. While the security regulations on atomic bomb continue to be necessary, it is believed important at this time that various effects of an atomic explosion should be resolved into conventional criteria. In an effort to implement the beginning of this trend, radioactivity is referred to as a poison, a thorough knowledge of which should eventually be had by the Chemical Warfare Service.

3. Part A of the War Department Equipment Board Report, dated 29 May 1946 has been approved as a War Department policy document. In Section II, Part A, it is recommended that the Chemical Warfare Service be charged with the responsibility for devising defensive measures against biological and chemical agents. The connotation here is that this responsibility should also include defenses against nuclear radioactivity.

4. As is pointed out above specific requirements for radioactivity countermeasures cannot yet be stated. However, it is believed that this problem should be attacked in the same manner as were toxic gases some years ago. Therefore, before intelligently planned countermeasures against radioactivity can be made, a thorough knowledge of the phenomenon must be gained. It is expected that it will be necessary for the Chemical Warfare Service (Possibly in conjunction with the Medical Department) to form an educational plan with the Manhattan Engineering District whereby such knowledge can be properly disseminated. It is understood that short radiology indoctrination courses by the War and Navy Departments for various high-level officers and civilians are being

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or will be conducted. These courses obviously represent only the beginning of what should be an integrated program directed toward the imparting of such knowledge as is necessary for the Chemical Warfare Service to carry out its responsibilities in connection with radioactivity. Upon the completion of such a program, the Chemical Warfare Service (through the Air Chemical Officer) can, in conjunction with the AAF (specifically Air Installations Division, AC/AS-4, Office of Air Engineer, AC/AS-4, Office of the Air Surgeon, AC/AS-1 and Requirements Division, AC/AS-3) determine the various necessary defense requirements.

5. It is requested that the Air Chemical Officer implement the plan discussed above at the earliest possible date and inform this office of the action being taken. This correspondence is routed through Air Installations Division, Office of Air Engineer, and the Office of the Air Surgeon for information and for any comment they see fit to make.

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AFCTG

/s/ William T. Hindell, Jr.
Colonel, Air Corps

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