

Defense Against Atomic Bomb

- (1) Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research & Development
- (2) AG AS-4

Undated

AG/AS-3

Comment No. 7

1. The purpose of Comment No. 1 was twofold - first, to fix the responsibility for radiological training and, second, to initiate the formation of a plan whereby all available knowledge of the causes, effects, and countermeasures of radioactivity could be properly disseminated.

2. The recommendation referred to in paragraph 2, Comment No. 5 apparently fulfills the second objective above. However, regardless of whether the ensuing educational system is a joint undertaking or not, it appears imperative at this time that there should be an agency within the Army responsible for radiological safety training, if only to work with the Navy in setting up the necessary research and educational activities. In the opinion of this office, that agency should be the Chemical Corps and action should be initiated at this time with the War Department to fix this responsibility.

3. Thus far, it appears that the Navy has exerted sufficient energy and diplomacy to usurp an unbalanced degree of functional responsibility in connection with the atomic bomb. In this particular phase of the atom bomb program, it appears that the Navy has already taken over an unusually large share of responsibility and in the proposed joint program the same condition might exist. To offset this possibility, it is suggested that the strongest effort be expended to enhance the position of the Chemical Corps as the representative of the Army in this program. The Chemical Corps, by dint of its long experience with various poisons and other chemicals, is obviously better prepared scientifically to direct the proposed joint program than is the Navy.

4. Regardless of the outcome of the proposal to the War Department discussed in Comment No. 5, this office feels that in addition to charging the Chemical Corps with radiological responsibilities, the latter should immediately be charged with as much basic research and development as will not seriously interfere with the forthcoming joint program. In this connection it is believed important to repeat that much useful data on radioactivity are available outside the Manhattan Project. In fact, the phenomenon to the scientific world is not at all novel; it simply must become the subject of military education.

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n/c

(*Handwritten initials*)

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By: Air Force Declassification Office
08 June 2010

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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

Requirements Division, AC/AS-3

7 Nov 46

Air Chemical Division, AC/AS-4

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Col Isbell/ddh/74076

1. This subject (Comments 1 to 5, inclusive, herewith) should be considered together with the previous R&R and Comments 2, 3, and 4, thereon, subject, "Radiological Safety Training of Personnel," dated 1 October 1946, originating in the Requirements Division. Specific attention is invited to Comment No. 4 of the Air Chemical Officer on that R&R (copy attached herewith), which indicated that defense against radio-activity resulting from the explosion of the atomic bomb must not be considered as the only possible radiological danger but the use of radio-active materials of various kinds as agents must also receive consideration. Education in radiological safety training and in defense against the atomic bomb must definitely include this aspect.

2. With this understanding, the Air Chemical Officer concurs with Comment No. 5 and the Comment of the Air Surgeon in regard to educational training and how it should be initially undertaken.

3. However, due consideration of the whole subject requires an appreciation that research and development leading towards defensive measures and protective measures must be undertaken at an early date and, in the opinion of the Air Chemical Officer, this date cannot wait for a basic educational training program to be undertaken as a Joint Army and Navy project. It would appear there is sufficient knowledge available at the present time outside of the Manhattan Project which, if properly used, could set up a Research and Development Project covering these matters. If such knowledge is not available outside of the Manhattan Project, it certainly could be obtained in sufficient quantity and quality to enable research and development to be started without seriously impeding the Joint Army and Navy Basic Educational Program.

4. Until the responsibility for such research and development is established within the Army organization, it is difficult to see how progress can be made even if basic education is undertaken. Comment No. 1 is principally concerned with the suggestion that the Chemical Corps be charged with that responsibility. However, the resulting comments nos. 3, 4, and 5, and partially Comment No. 2 are concerned chiefly with the necessities of construction and education and the main object of the R&R was forgotten. Therefore, it is the opinion of the undersigned that this whole matter should be given reconsideration by AC/AS-3 with a view to again initiating action leading to the assignment of responsibility as a separate proposition entirely from matters of construction and education.

5. It is also the opinion of the undersigned that due to the experience of the Chemical Corps in establishing means, measures, and policies for personnel defense, both individual and collective, against toxic materials, the Chemical Corps should be assigned this responsibility. Since the assignment

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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

Requirements Division, AC/AS-3

7 Nov 46

Air Chemical Division, AC/AS-4

6 (Con't)

of this responsibility will be undoubtedly by the War Department, it is felt that the Air Forces should come to a definite conclusion in the matter and make recommendations to the War Department in accordance with that conclusion.

E. MONTGOMERY
Brig. General, USA
Air Chemical Officer

1 Incl;
Cy RSR #4 fr DCH to Special
Asst to AC/AS-3, re: Radiological
Safety-Training of Personnel

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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

AC/AS-4, Air Chemical Office

29 Oct 46

Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research & Development

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Col Wilson/br/6742

1. This office agrees with the Air Surgeon that a basic educational training program should be undertaken as a joint Army-Navy venture, at least initially. This is because of the critical shortage of qualified teachers, the great number of trainees involved, and the fact that the information required is largely controlled by the Manhattan Engineer District.

2. The recommendation of the TAS was endorsed by this office and forwarded to General Brereton through the Director of Research & Development, WDCS. No reply has been received to date, but it is believed that a favorable reaction to a joint undertaking will be forthcoming: if not, this office will support a War Department effort to provide Army-wide education as a preliminary to more specialized training for the AAF. To repeat, this action is based principally upon the shortage of qualified teachers.

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

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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

DC/AS, Research & Development
AC/AS-4, Air Chemical Office
IN TURN

11 Oct 46

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Lt Col Love/cws/73728

AC/AS-1, Office of The Air Surgeon

1. It is the understanding of this office that Comment No. 1 is principally directed toward the development of an educational plan for radiologic matters.
2. It is believed that the basic education and training in nuclear physics, electronics, radioactivity, and atomic explosive phenomena should be given in a joint Army-Navy-Air Force school, and a recommendation to this effect was made by TAS to the DC/AS for Research and Development under date of 16 September 1946.
3. Although the AAF will require advanced and specially oriented training of its own in this field, it is felt that the matter of a basic course should be at least tentatively settled before efforts are directed toward developing a complete AAF plan.
4. Comment by DC/AS for Research & Development is accordingly requested on this R&R.

WILLIAM H. POWELL, JR.,
Colonel, Medical Corps,
Acting Deputy The Air Surgeon

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Defense Against Atomic Bomb

TO: Office of the Air Engineer, AC/AS-4
Office of the Air Surgeon, AC/AS-1
Air Chemical Office, AC/AS-4
IN TURN

DATE: 2 Oct 46

Comment No. 2
Lt Col Brittlter/els/5030

FROM: Air Installations Division, AC/AS-4

Comment No. 1, preceding, has been carefully studied in this Division and appears in general to be logical insofar as the probable existence of radio-active dust and moisture particles is concerned. It does appear, however, that an equal, if not greater danger exists in the radio-active rays emanating from and during the actual explosion itself. Such radiation could conceivably cause considerable damage to personnel and materiel, thus, it is felt that the provision of a type of construction which would prevent its entry into buildings, shelters, etc., would appear to be of major importance. It, therefore, appears essential that the development of defensive construction against such radiation is of sufficient importance to warrant this Division having an equal voice with the Air Chemical Officer, in the implementation of the plan discussed.

ROBERT MAUGH, Brig. Gen., USA
Chief, Air Installations Division
Asst Chief of Air Staff-4

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