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AEC 952/35

March 11, 1958

COPY NO. 21

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

OFFICIAL OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR HARDTACK

Note by the Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached report by the Director of Military Application be circulated for consideration by the Commission during the week of March 17, 1958.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

REPOSITORY NRA/Colley Park  
COLLECTION RC 324 51-58 Secretary  
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

OFFICIAL OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR HARDTACK

Report by the Director of Military Application

THE PROBLEM

1. To consider the official observer program for HARDTACK.

SUMMARY

2. For each past test series an official observer program has been carried out to permit important individuals in Government, including the AEC and the DOD, to witness a shot and be briefed on test site activities. Staff discussions have been underway with the DOD as to the HARDTACK official observer program. AEC 952/30 circulated a letter dated February 7, 1958, from Deputy Secretary Quarles proposing certain aspects of a HARDTACK program, some of which had already been discussed with the DOD staff. The more important points covered by Secretary Quarles' letter were:

a. The program should be reduced over that of recent series. A total of 75 observers was suggested, 45 spaces would be filled by the DOD, and 30 by the AEC.

b. Observers should be scheduled to witness only more significant shots and be prepared to remain until a shot occurred.

c. Certain foreign observation should take place. There should be three each observers from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia counted against the 45 DOD spaces. In addition there should be a NATO observer group, not included in the above spaces

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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3. Relative to the point of curtailing the scope of the program, we planned for REDWING six observer trips of about 20 persons each split 60 to AEC and 60 to the DOD. The AEC invited some 100 persons who might be termed "high Government officials" or high AEC subcontractor officials of whom only some twenty-five were able to make the trip. Both the AEC and DOD found themselves filling out the six scheduled trips with quite junior people and often with people not too directly concerned with important aspects of the program. We believe that it is entirely probable that the 30 spaces for AEC will cover all those who should and will be able to accept. If not, however, it will be necessary that added trips be scheduled. We shall not be able to determine the exact number of spaces needed until after invitations have been issued and answers received. We propose that invitations be issued to the individuals named in Appendix "A" which is a listing quite similar to the invitation list of REDWING.

4. As to scheduling for particular shots, last minute changes in past tests have caused confusion particularly when officials have been led to believe that they will see a specific shot. In discussion with General Loper and General Luedecke, we have agreed that we shall tell the invitees that certain trips will leave at certain times and be away for a certain period. It is unreasonable to expect that individuals will answer an invitation realistically until we can spell out better the time away and the date of departure. For that reason our invitations would be worded similar to Appendix "B". These would specify that observer trips would depart in mid-April late April, mid-May and early June (See Appendix "D")

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5. The first trip would be one to arrive to witness the <sup>ULTRA</sup> Very High Altitude shot. It is possible that this trip of some 15 to 17 total spaces will be over-subscribed, particularly in view of the high interest of the DOD in this shot. For that reason our invitations to those of Cabinet Officer rank and to the JCAE would list all four of the observer shots as available, whereas invitations to other individuals would list only the three later trips.

6. As to the foreign observers suggested, it is believed the AEC should offer no objection if the matter is properly coordinated with the Department of State. The U.S. has agreements for military cooperation with all the nations or organizations concerned. Tentatively the DOD had been thinking of splitting the foreign observers (except the NATO group) into three separate groups. It would appear much more convenient to consolidate the United Kingdom, Canadian and Australian observers into one group for reasons given in the attached proposed letter to the DOD (Appendix "C"). The Joint Task Force is now planning to effect this consolidation for the U.K., Canadian and Australian observers.

7. Mr. Quarles' letter informs the Commission that the Commander, JTF-7 will give a briefing later to senior NATO personnel. From informal discussion it is understood that this would be to the NATO international staff. It would have to be limited, insofar as atomic information is concerned, to data judged transmissible by the AEC and DOD (unless the new law specifies some different procedure). With the close of the operational period the Commander, JTF-7 is no longer responsible to the AEC but becomes entirely a Commander of the military forces. As such, what he does then is not an AEC responsibility

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even in part. It is believed that the Commission should offer no comment as to this briefing.

STAFF JUDGMENTS

8. The Office of Operations Analysis and Planning, Division of Information Services, and the Office of the General Counsel concur in the recommendation of this paper.

RECOMMENDATION

9. The General Manager recommends that the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Approve the sending immediately of an invitation generally similar to Appendix "B" to the individuals listed in Appendix "A".

b. Note that dispatch of Appendix "B" to the Joint Committee will serve as notification of the program and an invitation to its Chairman and the Committee as a whole, but that similar but somewhat abbreviated letters will be sent to the individual members of the Joint Committee.

c. Approve the dispatch of letter (Appendix "C") to the Secretary of Defense concurring in part in the Secretary's proposals and suggesting certain modifications.

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES

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APPENDIX "A"

PROPOSED INVITATION LIST

Executive Branch Officials

Vice President	Mr. Richard Nixon
Secretary of State	Mr. John Foster Dulles
Secretary of Treasury	Mr. Robert Anderson
Secretary of (the) Interior	Mr. Fred A. Seaton
The Assistant to the President	Mr. Sherman Adams
Director, National Security Council	Mr. Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President	Mr. Frederick M. Dearborn, Jr.
Director, CIA	Mr. Allen Dulles
Director, Bureau of Budget	Mr. Percival F. Brundage
Director, Office of Defense Mobilization	Mr. Gordon Gray
Chairman, Operations Coordinating Board	Mr. Christian Herter
Director, U.S. Information Agency	Mr. George V. Allen
Administrator, FCDA	Governor Leo Hoegh
Deputy Administrator, FCDA	Mr. Lewis E. Berry, Jr.
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security	Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Chairman and Commissioners AEC	5

Legislative Branch Officials

Chairman, JCAE	Honorable Carl T. Durham
Vice Chairman, JCAE	Senator Clinton P. Anderson
Member, JCAE	Senator Richard B. Russell
Member, JCAE	Senator John O. Pastore
Member, JCAE	Senator Henry H. Jackson

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Member, JCAE	Senator Albert Gore
Member, JCAE	Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper
Member, JCAE	Senator William F. Knowland
Member, JCAE	Senator John W. Bricker
Member, JCAE	Senator Henry C. Dworshak
Member, JCAE	Representative Chet Holifield
Member, JCAE	Representative Melvin Price
Member, JCAE	Representative Paul J. Kilday
Member, JCAE	Representative John J. Dempsey
Member, JCAE	Representative James E. Van Zandt
Member, JCAE	Representative James T. Patterson
Member, JCAE	Representative Thomas A. Jenkins
Member, JCAE	Representative Craig Hosmer
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee	Senator Carl Hayden
Chairman, House App. Comm. & Public Works Subcommittee	Mr. Clarence Cannon (13 in Public Works Subcomm.)
Chairman, AEC Unit of PW Sub- committee Senate App. Comm.	Senator Lister Hill (6 not included as members of JCAE or Sen. Hayden)

AEC Advisors and Contractors

GAC	9
Regents, University of California	3
American Tel. & Tel.	1
General Electric	1
duPont	1
Carbide	1

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APPENDIX "B"

DRAFT LETTER OF INVITATION

1. As had been customary for past test operations, an official observer program is contemplated for Operation HARDTACK. It is intended through this program to offer to responsible governmental authorities having responsibility in the military nuclear field the opportunity to observe one of the more significant test detonations. It is my hope that you and others of the Joint Committee will be able to spare the time to see one of the shots and to be briefed in the Proving Ground of activities there.

2. The initial shot of the series is scheduled to occur shortly after mid-April. Special mission aircraft will be arranged to leave Washington periodically, to remain in the Proving Ground for a reasonable time, and then to return the observers to the United States. The first trip is tentatively scheduled to leave on or about 15 April; the second about 28 April; the third about 15 May; and the fourth in early June. The aircraft will proceed directly from Washington to the Proving Ground, arriving approximately two days before the shot is ready. It will remain there up to ten days unless the shot to be observed is fired earlier and thereafter return to Washington. The total time that an observer could be expected to be away from Washington would be between ten days and two weeks.

3. On January 21 the Military Applications Subcommittee of your Committee was briefed on the plans for HARDTACK. During the briefing certain members asked that investigation be made as to the possibility of advancing the series so that a Congressional group could witness a shot during the Easter recess from approximately April 4 to April 13. We have investigated this matter

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but, unfortunately, find it impossible to advance any firings into the earlier period.

4. I would like to repeat that it is my hope that you will be able to make a trip to the Proving Ground. I shall have a member of the Division of Military Application contact you shortly to explain what might be seen on any particular trip.

5. I am writing similarly to the other members of the Joint Committee and will have them visited also by a representative of the Division of Military Application.

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APPENDIX "C"

DRAFT LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1. We have studied Mr. Quarles' letter of February 7, 1958, concerning the Department's proposal for an observer program for HARDTACK. Our comments are as follows.

2. We agree that the planned observer program for HARDTACK should be reduced over that of REDWING. Experience in REDWING indicated that a lesser number of high officials concerned with the program could make the trip than had been planned. Tentatively, therefore, we accept that planning for the HARDTACK program be on the basis of 75 official observers with a division of 45 to the Department of Defense and 30 to the Atomic Energy Commission. However, it is necessary and is our intent to invite the high governmental, AEC and contractor officials concerned with the program and named on the attached list. This listing resembles quite closely the invitation list for REDWING. Should acceptances exceed 30 we would expect that arrangements be made to transport and accommodate the additional required.

3. It is necessary, of course, that we transmit our invitations immediately if we are to receive early information as to those who will attend. To do this it is necessary that we give a tentative timing for observer trips - both date of departure and duration. The Director of Military Application has coordinated with the Commander, JTF-7 and with General Loper to agree on information to be given in this regard. Invitations will state that present plans contemplate observer trips leaving the United States in mid-April, late April, mid-May and early June. In connection with the time in the Proving Ground, we believe it unrealistic to promise observers that they will remain

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until they see a particular shot. In the past larger shots have been delayed for periods of up to twenty days, and there have been occasions where a shot had to be rescheduled for technical reasons even after observers had started their travel. We believe it preferable to state that the aircraft will normally remain in the Proving Ground for a period of 10 days unless the shot to be observed occurs earlier. In view of these considerations, our invitation will tell the invitees they can expect to be absent from Washington for 10 to 15 days.

4. With regard to foreign observation, the Commission has no objection to the observance your letter indicates as contemplated by the Department. We understand that the nine observers from Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom may be either military or civilians. We have been informed by General Loper's office that the necessary concurrence of the Department of State has been secured.

5. It is understood that the nine UK, Canadian, and Australian observers will be taken to and from the Pacific separately from U.S. official observers and it is planned that they will observe the VHA prime shot. We further understand that a special trip separate from the above and not including U.S. official observers is contemplated to depart on or about 1 June to accommodate the NATO observers. We believe that such arrangements will permit freer discussion by U.S. attendees while enroute to and from the Proving Ground and will minimize the problems of group segregation for briefing and tours in the forward area.

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APPENDIX "D"

OPERATION HARDTACK DETONATION DESIGNATED SPECIFICALLY FOR OBSERVERS

Detonation Code Name	Location	Ready Date	Observers In-Place Dates	OFFICIAL OBSERVERS ALLOTTED				
				DOD	AEC	FOREIGN	NATO	TOTAL
TEAK	BIKINI	16 Apr or 23 Apr	14 to 18 Apr or 21 to 25 Apr	10	8			18
ORANGE BUTTERNUT SYCAMORE CEDAR CACTUS	BIKINI ENIWETOK BIKINI BIKINI ENIWETOK	28 Apr or 7 May	26 Apr to 6 May or 2 to 10 May	10	7	9		26
WAHOO POPLAR YELLOWWOOD HOLLY	ENIWETOK BIKINI ENIWETOK ENIWETOK	15 May	12 to 17 May	8	8			16
MAPLE TOBACCO ROSE FIR HICKORY	BIKINI ENIWETOK ENIWETOK BIKINI BIKINI	1 June	28 May to 3 June				14	14
UMBRELLA REDWOOD WALNUT	ENIWETOK BIKINI ENIWETOK	8 June	6 to 10 June	8	7			15



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