

MARSHALL ISLANDS FILE TRACKING DOCUMENT

Record Number: 406

File Name (TITLE): Pacific Proving Grounds; Histories

Document Number (ID): 79176

DATE: na

Previous Location (FROM): CIC

AUTHOR: na

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

OrMIbox: 21

CyMIbox: \_\_\_\_\_

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

of ~~Series~~ ~~of~~ ~~copies~~ ~~Series~~ ~~of~~

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE

*MW* *11/5/84*  
REVIEWED BY *J Diaz* *4/22/86*

10-15-53

C. Pacific Proving Grounds

1. History -

As discussed before the first experimental test operation in the Pacific was Operation Crossroads at Bikini Atoll in the Summer 1946. This operation was conducted on a somewhat "crash" basis and instrumentation and facilities at Bikini were established on that basis. When planning for Operation Sandstone, the next full-scale Pacific test operation, was initiated, the existence of an air strip, some usable buildings, and more usable real estate, its location which was more isolated, influenced a decision to execute the operation at Eniwetok Atoll rather than at Bikini. For Operation Sandstone, facilities existing at Eniwetok were augmented by temporary structures and installations to provide for the essential operating requirements.

When Operation Greenhouse was first proposed and a requirement for subsequent full-scale test operations was foreseen, development of a semi-permanent base at Eniwetok Atoll became practical and construction of the present camps and operating facilities on Parry and Eniwetok Islands was initiated. Operation Greenhouse was conducted in the Spring of 1951 and the first program of base facilities at Eniwetok was utilized in this activity.

The Greenhouse Operation consisted of the detonation of two weapons and two experimental devices. The first shot, a weapon test, was

THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C. SECTION 793 AND 794, AND THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

RG | 316 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Location **ALOO**

Collection  
Folder **PLBL All Breaks**  
**F4-54**

WEHAD

~~SECRET~~ PLANTS, LABS, BUILDINGS & LAND

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

20  
17

detonated on April 8, 1951, on a 300-foot tower on Runit Island, Eniwetok Atoll. The second shot, also a weapon test, was detonated on April 21, on a 300-foot tower on Engebi Island. The third shot, a device test, was detonated on May 9 on a 200-foot heavy-load tower, on Eberiru Island. The concluding shot, also a device, was fired on a 200-foot tower on Engebi Island on May 25. Eight experimental programs were conducted.

Operation Greenhouse was conducted by Joint Task Force Three which consisted of four Task Groups:

Task Group 3.1 - Scientific

Task Group 3.2 - Army

Task Group 3.3 - Navy

Task Group 3.4 - Air Force

For this operation the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, was executive agent of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Task Force was commanded by an Air Force Officer. The operational period began February 1, 1951, and ended June 11, 1951, with the Task Force operating at the Proving Grounds from March 3 to May 27. Peak task force strength in the forward area was 8,916 personnel.

Planning for a subsequent full-scale test operation at Eniwetok was already under way when Greenhouse was concluded. This became Operation Ivy and, as planning developed, the need for additional

base and operating facilities at the Proving Grounds became apparent. A construction program was initiated to provide the needed additional facilities and to construct the many scientific and technical stations, along with related facilities, which are required in such an operation.

Operation Ivy was conducted by Joint Task Force 132 which again consisted of four Task Groups:

Task Group 132.1 - Scientific

Task Group 132.2 - Army

Task Group 132.3 - Navy

Task Group 132.4 - Air Force

For this operation the Chief of Staff, United States Army was executive agent for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Task Force was commanded by an Army Officer. The operational period began August 25, 1952; Joint Task Force headquarters were established in the forward area on September 17, and the operational period concluded on November 21, 1952.

Operation Ivy consisted of the detonation of a very high yield device and a high yield nuclear weapon. The first shot was detonated on November 1, from a surface platform on Elugelab Island. The second shot was an air dropped weapon detonated at a height of 1500 feet over Runit Island on November 16. The peak Task Force strength

~~SECRET~~  
DO EMBL

~~SECRET~~

22  
19

[REDACTED]

overseas was approximately 11,000 personnel. Eleven experimental programs were included in the Operation.

Prior to the conclusion of Operation Ivy, preparations were begun for the subsequent overseas operation which has been assigned the operation designation of Castle and is scheduled for execution in the Spring of 1954. At the present time planning contemplates a series of six shots in the operation, all being devices, some of them in the very high yield category. A significant requirement for this operation was additional real estate to permit detonation of the series of shots in a reasonable period of time and have shot locations so distributed as to permit a maximum of construction and instrumentation in advance of the operation and a minimum of delay between shots for these purposes. To satisfy these requirements, the Pacific Proving Grounds has been expanded to include Bikini Atoll. Development of Bikini for Operation Castle is on a temporary basis utilizing tents for housing, minimum frame structures with plywood siding for mess halls, dispensaries, etc., and minimum shelters for power, distillation, and other operating equipment, with maximum use of portable equipment and facilities. (For Operation Castle the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, is again executive agent, and the Commander, Joint Task Force, is the same Army Officer who commanded Joint Task Force 132 for Operation Ivy. The task force has been

**ALOO**

[REDACTED]

23  
20

designated Joint Task Force SEVEN. In addition to the Commander and his staff, the Joint Task Force consists of:

- Task Group 7.1 - Scientific
- Task Group 7.2 - Army
- Task Group 7.3 - Navy
- Task Group 7.4 - Air Force
- Task Group 7.5 - AEC Base Facilities

2. Organization -

By agreement between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Joint Chiefs of Staff full-scale tests at the Pacific Proving Grounds are executed by a military-type task force commanded by military officer. Executive agent responsibility has been rotated between the military departments with the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, being executive agent for Operation Greenhouse and the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, being executive agent for Operation Ivy and Operation Castle. During the interim period between operations, the Joint Task Force Commander's responsibility is limited to planning and coordination of preparation for the subsequent operation and to providing military support in the form of transportation, communications, and other military facilities. The Santa Fe Operations Office and its Eniwetok Field Office have continuing responsibility for direction of the Atomic Energy Commission's effort at the Proving Grounds, including general AEC administration, support, control of funds, and inspection of the

~~SECRET~~

performance of the Commission's various contractors. Control and direction of the scientific program remain with the Commission's scientific contractors.

At the time agreed for beginning of the operational period the Commission designates the Joint Task Force Commander as its special representative at the Proving Grounds, grants him full authority to act for the Commission in all matters which concern the successful execution of the approved plan. This authority is operational in nature and does not transfer any of the continuing administrative responsibilities of the Field Manager, Eniwetok Field Office, or the normal responsibilities for technical direction of laboratory components participating in the tests.

For past operations the Task Force organization has consisted of the Task Force Commander and his military staff, a Scientific task group, an Army task group, a Navy task group, and an Air Force task group. The AEC organization responsible for construction, support, and operation activities at the Proving Grounds functioned as a part of the scientific task group. At the conclusion of Operation Ivy, the desirability of separating the direct AEC functions from the scientific activities was accepted and for Operation Castle an additional task group was set up with responsibility for performing the AEC administrative, construction and operation functions.

DOE/ND

~~SECRET~~

25

~~SECRET~~

add 8:4-11

Principal responsibilities of the various task groups for Operation Castle, which are typical of tasks assigned for previous operations, are as follows:

*again*  
\* Scientific Task Group

- (1) Conduct tests of the experimental devices.
- (2) Conduct the technical and measurement programs.
- (3) Conduct non-technical film operations.

*single space*  
\* Army Task Group

- (1) Provide a mobile defense force for the ground security of the Pacific Proving Grounds.
- (2) Operate port, base and military communications facilities at Eniwetok and certain military installations at Bikini in accordance with existing AEC-DOD agreements.
- (3) Provide and operate the overall military communications system for handling all forward area joint task force inter-atoll and long-haul traffic (exclusive of air operations, air weather, internal naval communications and the TG 7.1 inter-atoll radio circuit).

\* Navy Task Group -

- (1) Provide for the security of the Eniwetok/Bikini danger area by:
  - (a) Maintaining the status of the "Closed Area."
  - (b) Detecting, warning and escorting unauthorized vessels and aircraft out of the Danger Area.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

26



- (2) Provide suitable water transportation and shipboard assembly facilities for weapons and devices to meet the requirements of the Scientific Task Group.
- (3) Provide shipboard command facilities for the Commander, Joint Task Force, and administrative space for Scientific and AEC task groups.
- (4) Provide ship-to-shore and inter-island surface and helicopter transportation, to include flights for damage survey and recovery of scientific samples and film.
- (5) Provide shipboard facilities to house designated elements of the joint task force while afloat.

B. Air Force Task Group -

- (1) Assume operational control of the inter-atoll and inter-island airlift system at Eniwetok.
- (2) Execute assigned operational missions to include cloud sampling, effects tests aircraft operations, communications services, search and rescue, non-technical photography aircraft operations, weather service, Military Air Transport Service (MATS) terminal operations and official observer flights.
- (3) Provide air controller and other supervisory personnel for the air operations center aboard the command ship.

B. AEC Base facilities Task Group

- (1) Continue to execute missions assigned by the Manager, Santa Fe Operations Office in accordance with current AEC policies.
- (2) Operate and maintain certain installations and facilities at Eniwetok and Bikini in accordance with existing agreements with Scientific Task Group and between AEC and DOD.
- (3) Provide necessary base facilities and logistic support for military personnel at Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls in accordance with existing agreements.
- (4) Provide necessary test facilities to meet the scientific requirements and inform the Joint Task Force Commander of significant developments affecting his overall mission.

*ALOP*

3. Participation -

**ALOO**

As indicated above, the executive agent is designated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Commander, Joint Task Force is selected by the executive agent and his staff is composed of personnel assigned for that duty by the military services. In addition, each military service designates a commander for its task group and assigns personnel to the task group as appropriate. The Scientific Task Group is commanded by a person selected by the scientific organizations, approved by the AEC, and acceptable to the Task Force Commander. The staff of the Scientific Task Group is made up principally of

~~SECRET~~

*(Signature)*  
25

~~SECRET~~

the staff of the J-Division, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, supplemented by military personnel on detail to the laboratory. Also included in the Task Group staff are representatives of the principal participating laboratories with responsibilities compatible with laboratory interest. Execution of the Task Group tasks is by task units, each with specific program and project responsibilities. These various task groups are comprised of personnel from AEC laboratories, principally Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and University of California Radiation Laboratory, laboratories of the military departments and other Government agencies, and their civilian contractors, working with nuclear weapons and in related fields.

## ALOO

The AEC Base Facilities task group is staffed by personnel of the Santa Fe Operations Office and its Eniwetok Field Office, supplemented by other AEC personnel as required. The Task Group Commander is selected by the Manager, SFOO, approved by the Commission, and acceptable to the Joint Task Force Commander. Construction, support and operation functions are accomplished through AEC contracts administered by SFOO.

~~SECRET~~

28