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HEADQUARTERS
TASK GROUP 132.1
Joint Task Force 132
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23 June 1952

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TO: See Distribution

FROM: Commander, Task Group 132.1

SUBJECT: GENERAL CONCEPT - OPERATION CASTLE

1. The purpose of this paper is to disseminate for staff guidance information now available regarding Operation CASTLE, tentatively scheduled for September-October 1953.

2. General Information

A. The Department of the Army is continuing as executive agent and General Clarkson is continuing as Joint Task Force Commander for Operation CASTLE. CJTF 132 is preparing a report for the Joint Chiefs of Staff outlining the CASTLE military participation program. The report will recommend approval of the following principles:

(1). That certain critical personnel and equipment be returned to their respective Services during the IVY - CASTLE transition period. (Drop and instrumentation aircraft, security vessels and aircraft, and other components in similar categories.)

(2). That appropriate troop elements and equipment be retained in the forward area. (Those components necessary for atoll, transportation base support, maintenance and communications services and security.)

(3). That JTF 132 task force and task group staffs be retained to plan CASTLE, with normal rotation of personnel as required.

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(4) That the Services, in programming for CASTLE, consider the reassignment to JTF 132 of those ships and aircraft modified and instrumented for IVY at substantial expense.

A draft of this report will be submitted to the four task groups for their comments in the near future and will be circulated among 132.1 staff members for comment as soon as received. Upon receipt of task group comments, outside agencies concerned with CASTLE will be asked to contribute to the final development of the paper to insure Services and AEC acceptance of the program before the Commander of JTF 132 submits it to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Target date for its submission to the Joint Chiefs of Staff is July 7.

3. THE CASTLE PLAN - SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1953

A. Weapons and Sequence

CASTLE may involve testing as many as three fission experimental weapons of the order of 50 kilotons in addition to one high yield thermonuclear experimental device (dry). One of the fission-type weapons may be air dropped. If possible, simultaneous preparations will be made for each shot in order to permit optimum use of favorable weather conditions. Present preference is to test the thermonuclear device last.

B. Locations

Even if post-IVY radiation levels should permit early construction on the northern islands of Eniwetok, and significant damage to base facilities does not occur, testing one super and several fission weapons during one operation at Eniwetok presents complications in construction and time. Therefore present planning contemplates the possible use of Bikini for the CASTLE thermonuclear shot and Eniwetok for the fission shots. Bikini presents limiting factors for weather selection because of Rad-Safety considerations but has advantages in that it is near Eniwetok and uninhabited.

C. Experimentation

The CASTLE experimental programs will be at least as extensive as and probably greater in scope than IVY's. A structural effects program will not be conducted on Bikini, but may be conducted on Eniwetok providing the desired structures can be erected in the limited time interval between IVY and CASTLE.

D. Support Situation

The Eniwetok-Bikini plan presents greater surface and air transport requirements, as well as broader security problems, than GREENHOUSE and IVY. A forward temporary camp to accommodate approximately 500 men and a C-47 air strip are contemplated on Bikini with Eniwetok the main

base of operations including air support. Support required on Kwajalein will be considerably less than that for IVY. Other support requirements are:

(1) Round-trip Eniwetok-Bikini surface and air transportation to be initiated as construction requirements dictate, on a schedule to be determined.

(2) C-47, seaplane, liaison plane, and helicopter capabilities at Bikini in a magnitude commensurate with Bikini base development.

(3) A stevedoring company at Bikini capable of handling cargo ships from Eniwetok and ZI.

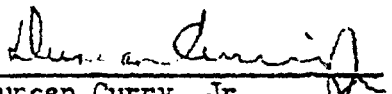
(4) An AGC type ship and the Curtiss will be required for firing control purposes, nuclear component storage, and transportation during the operational period at Bikini.

(5) An LST, LSD, several LSU's, and a boat pool including DUKW's, will be required at Bikini immediately following IVY. Tugs and barges will be required if piers are constructed.

E. Evacuation Problems

This subject will be re-examined following the experience gained on IVY (MIKE).

4. Paul Spain and Holmes & Narver are now conducting a preliminary reconnaissance of Bikini in order to submit cost and support estimates, and recommendations concerning a construction program which, if approved, will probably start in October 1952.


Duncan Curry, Jr.
Chief of Staff

DC/PLH/JG
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