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December 24, 1953

*Discuss A W Puller
this week.*



Mr. Richard Hirsch
Operations Coordinating Board
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

The Commission and the Department of Defense believe it important for operational reasons to issue in the near future an announcement of the formation of Joint Task Force 7 and its preparations for a new series of tests at the Pacific Proving Ground. The project is now entering the operational phase and movements of personnel -- more than 1,000 of them by air, some 9,000 by sea -- will be noted and speculated on in the press. It is desirable that members of the Task Force be permitted without violating security restrictions to let their families know that they will be absent for some time.

The Commission has asked that the judgment of the Operations Coordinating Board on the timing of such an announcement be obtained. We would like to issue it, if there is no contrary reason, in the first week of the new year. I am attaching six copies of the draft of the release for the information of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Morse Salisbury
Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services

Attachments

OCT 1956

[Handwritten initials]

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JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
PREPARING FOR NEW SERIES OF TESTS
AT PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS

The Department of Defense and the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission announced today that preparations have been underway for some time for a new series of tests at the Commission's Pacific Proving Grounds. The preparations are being carried out by Joint Task Force SEVEN, successor to Joint Task Force 132, which conducted tests during the fall of 1952.



Full security restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act apply to preparations for, and time of, the tests.

Joint Task Force SEVEN, composed of personnel of the AEC, Army, Navy and Air Force, will be responsible for carrying out the test operations at the Pacific Proving Grounds. Major General Percy W. Clarkson, U. S. Army, who commanded Joint Task Force 132, will continue as Commander of Joint Task Force SEVEN. Dr. Alvin C. Graves, of the Atomic Energy Commission, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, who has served as Scientific Director during previous atomic tests in Nevada and Eniwetok, will remain as Deputy Commander and Scientific Director; Captain Eugene T. Sands, U. S. Navy, has been designated as Deputy for Navy; and Colonel Murray A. Bywater, U. S. Air Force, as Deputy for Air Force. Chief of Staff is Brigadier General Eugene McGinley, U. S. Army.

Atomic Energy Commission participation will be primarily conducted by Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, the University of California Radiation Laboratory, and Sandia Corporation, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

At the Pacific Proving Grounds, construction, maintenance and improvement of facilities are performed by Holmes and Narver, Los Angeles engineering and construction firm, under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission.

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