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STATEMENT OF LIEUT. GENERAL JOHN E. HULL, COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN, AT PRESS CONFERENCE, HQ., USARPAC, FORT SHAFTER, T. H., 18 MAY 1948.

Joint Task Force Seven has successfully completed its mission as assigned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This mission was dual in character. First, it was the mission of the Task Force to construct an atomic energy proving ground for the Atomic Energy Commission at Eniwetok. Secondly, it was required that we assist the AEC in the conduct of the first series of tests of atomic weapons during the months of April and May.

The Task Force had completed the construction of the proving ground by April, in time to permit the conduct of the tests as scheduled. In general, this involved the construction and rehabilitation of housing and living facilities for the scientific group and for troops. Installation of utilities, water, power, and communications was required. Fortunately, we were able to use existing structures, left over from the war, mostly quonset-type buildings, at the proving ground for housing personnel and for storage and work shops; after repairs, of course. Some equipment was repairable, for instance refrigerating equipment. Considerable savings resulted from these efforts. It was necessary to repair air strips to permit the landing of heavy planes including C-54's, B-29's and B-17's. Landing facilities for small water craft had to be provided, although cargo had to be off-loaded on lighters from the transport ships.

Construction of the actual testing ground involved special construction for the placement of various scientific instruments and test equipment.

These tests had no kinship to the Bikini tests, the purpose of which was to test the effect on naval equipment and other materials as well as animal and marine life. In the words of the directive given to the Commander of Joint Task Force One, the purpose of the Bikini test was to determine "the effects of atomic explosives against naval vessels in order to appraise the strategic implications of atomic bombs including the results on naval design and tactics." We did not conduct the postponed underwater test Charlie.

The tests of Operation Sandstone were literally and truly field laboratory tests, designed to determine how the bombs now under development by the United States would work and to determine their efficiency. We did just that. We got our answers. We liked the answers. These answers belong to the United States Government and, naturally, are not for publication. It can be said, however, that the bombs worked. We have proved the weapon-development work done by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory during the past two years.

This job which we have just completed was begun on 3 April 1947 when the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission concurred in the recommendation of the Los Alamos

Scientific Laboratory that tests of certain new designs of weapons be conducted in 1948. The Commission requested and received the President's approval to go ahead with the program in June, 1947.

In September, 1947, preparations had progressed to the point where formation of a Joint Task Force was directed. Joint Task Force Seven actually came into being on 18 October 1947.

As a military organization, Joint Task Force Seven is unique. It was organized along the lines of our best war-time experience, but there was an additional element. As a part of the organization we had a Task Group which was essentially civilian in makeup. This was the Scientific Group which conducted the actual tests, and which recorded and is still analyzing the results. Captain Russell, who is Deputy Director of the Division of Military Application of the AEC, headed this Task Group as Test Director, and Doctor Darol K. Froman, as Scientific Director for the Proving Ground, headed the Task Unit of scientists within the Task Group. Through Captain Russell, the scientific unit operated technically under the AEC. This Task Group, by common consent, did not work through my staff. The channels between Captain Russell, Dr. Froman and myself were direct. Dr. Alvin C. Graves served as Deputy Director to Dr. Froman and Mr. Robert W. Henderson and Dr. John C. Clark were Assistant Scientific Directors--all from the Los Alamos Laboratory.

The operation of Joint Task Force Seven, thus organized, was the ultimate in integrated effort and embodied our present-day concept of preparedness--this is the concept we are currently teaching at the National War College--the integrated effort of the Armed Forces with civilian scientists and other specialized civilian elements.

It is a tribute to the scientists who were members of the Task Force that the operation was successful. The mixing of civilian and military elements in the past sometimes has reacted like oil and water. Joint Task Force Seven was a unified team. Successful accomplishment of its mission was the result of an integrated effort. Much credit for this accomplishment is due Dr. Froman. It has been a real pleasure to have been associated with him on this project.

I am sorry that Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory is not here, but I want to say for his benefit that if the men under Doctor Froman are typical of the Los Alamos organization, the research and development in the field of nuclear weapons is in good hands.

All of us have been equally impressed with the scientific competence, the technical skill, and the sound judgment of the civilian scientists and technicians assembled for these tests. Our close association has been valuable in many respects and, I am sure, paves the way for a continuing and increasing cooperative effort to insure the common defense and security of the people of the United States.

The military staff of Joint Task Force Seven included Rear Admiral William S. Parsons, USN, and Major General William E. Kepner, USAF, as Deputy Commanders. General Kepner also served as Commander Air Forces, Joint Task Force Seven. Brigadier General Claude E. Forenbaugh was Chief of Staff.

Naval units of the Joint Task Force were commanded by Rear Admiral Francis C. Denebrink. Brigadier General David A. D. Ogden, USA, commanded Army units of the Task Force and Major General Roger M. Ramsey, USAF, was in command of Air Force units under the overall direction of General Kepner.

The major portion of the Joint Task Force sailed from Pearl Harbor on 8 March in ships of the Naval Task Group. Flagship of the force was the command ship USS Mount McKinley, veteran of the Pacific war and of the Bikini atomic tests. The four ships of the convoy had aboard the principal participants, both scientific and military. Construction of the proving ground had been commenced in late December 1947 by General Ogden's Army units, in accordance with plans developed in coordination with the Scientific Group. Some of our construction was performed by civilian contract.

One of the most extensive construction projects was that of signal communication. Both radio and telephone service was required. Nearly 1,000,000 feet of submarine cable was laid under direction of the U. S. Coast Guard.

Incidentally, it might interest you to know that within the Task Force in addition to the Scientific personnel from the AEC's Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory at New Mexico, and many other parts of the country, we had engaged at different periods during the preparation for and conduct of the tests personnel from the Army, Navy, including Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, Coast and Geodetic Survey, civilian employees from the different Services and civilians working under contract. Consequently, upon arrival of the main body of the Task Force, the scientific group was able to commence its preparations immediately.

During the period of construction and preparation for the tests some 50,000 measurement tons of material, supplies and equipment were shipped from the mainland and from Oahu to the test area. Some of this was shipped by air although the bulk, of course, went by water.

It was decided at the outset that the most economical means of mounting the operation would be to utilize the existing administrative and logistical channels of the three Services. Primarily, these channels were Commander in Chief, Pacific, and Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet; U. S. Army, Pacific; Pacific Air Command; the Pacific Division, Air Transport Command; and the Naval Air Transport Service. We also had the services of the Western Ocean Division, Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, at Sausalito, California; the Naval Supply Centers at Oakland and Port Huene, California, and at Pearl Harbor; and the San Francisco and Seattle Ports of Embarkation.

The overall strength of the Joint Task Force was approximately 9,800 including civilian personnel.

Observers of the tests were limited in the extreme, since it was the view of all agencies that only those who had actual need for the knowledge should attend. These observers included members of the Joint Congressional Committee for Atomic Energy and its staff, the AEC and the Armed Forces. No other observers were permitted.

To sum up, aside from the value of the tests themselves, the Operation was one of great profit to the Armed Forces. Valuable training in joint operations was gained--training almost impossible to get in peacetime, and generally, all too limited to most members of the military services. Such experience is invaluable in fostering integration within the Services.

So much for the general picture. I'm now going to ask Captain Russell, the Test Director, and Dr. Froman, the Scientific Director, to make a few remarks. I know you will be interested in what they say as, after all, although these tests were tests of military weapons, the tests were conducted by the Scientific Group headed by Dr. Froman. After they have finished, we will endeavor to answer such questions as you may have in mind insofar as we can do so. You realize, of course, that much of the information is of the category of classified data under the Atomic Energy Act and the Espionage Act and none of us is at liberty to answer questions pertaining to the technical aspects of the test or their results.

General Kepner of the Air Forces and Admiral Parsons of the Navy, both of whom were Deputies to the Commander of Joint Task Force Seven are also here today. As stated earlier, General Kepner was also in command of the Air Forces participating. It may be that you will wish to question them.

I have had copies of those notes from which I spoke made and you are welcome to a copy if you desire one. If you wish to quote any of my remarks, I suggest you quote them from the notes. They are written out to such an extent that this can be done. I stand behind any quotation that you may wish to make from the notes, and you are at liberty to use all or part of them in such manner.

I am now going to turn this discussion over to Captain Russell and Doctor Froman.