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ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12065, Section 6-108
By WJD NARS, Date 4/17/77

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D.C.

409291

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INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS
No. 74 December 22, 1947
Tel. EX. 1616 Brs. 307, 308

FOR RELEASE 7:00 P.M., EST
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1947

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND
STAFFING OF ENIWETOK PROVING GROUND

The United States Atomic Energy Commission today announced the organization and staffing of the Commission's proving ground at Eniwetok for routine experiments and tests of atomic weapons.

The scientific and technical operation of the proving ground will be the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Commission. These operations will provide new fundamental data and a broader understanding of nuclear fission which will facilitate peaceful as well as military applications of atomic energy. The Commission's responsibility will be discharged by a scientific group drawn largely from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory operated for the Commission by the University of California. Dr. Darol K. Froman of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory will be the Scientific Director of the proving ground. Dr. Froman will be assisted by Dr. Alvin C. Graves, deputy director, and Mr. Robert W. Henderson and Dr. John C. Clark, assistant scientific directors.

Dr. Froman's group will operate under the Atomic Energy Commission through Captain James S. Russell, USN, of the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Military Application. Captain Russell is responsible to the Atomic Energy Commission for the technical operation of the proving ground. He will also serve as Commander of the Scientific Group of Joint Task Force Seven. His deputy will be Colonel Paul T. Preuss, USAF, also of the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Military Application.

The Secretary of Defense has designated Lt. General John E. Hull, Commanding General, U. S. Army, Pacific, as Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, which is at present constructing the necessary facilities and installations at Eniwetok. Joint Task Force Seven will assist the Atomic Energy Commission in the conduct of routine experiments and tests of atomic weapons at the proving ground.

Rear Admiral William S. Parsons, USN, and Major General William E. Kepner, USAF, have been designated as Deputies to the Commander, Joint Task Force Seven. Brig. General Claude E. Ferenbaugh, USA, has been named Chief of Staff of the Joint Task Force.

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Naval units of the Joint Task Force are under command of Rear Admiral Francis C. Denebrink. Brig. General David A. D. Ogden, USA, commands Army units of the Task Force. Brig. General Roger M. Ramey, USAF, is in command of Air Force units under the overall direction of General Kepner.

As stated in the initial announcement of the selection of the site of the proving ground, all test operations will be under laboratory control conditions, with security restrictions as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

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