

J.C.S. 1795/23

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MEMORANDUM BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

POST-"SANDSTONE" REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE ENIWETOK PROVING GROUND

References: a. J.C.S. 1795/14
b. J.C.S. 1795/16

I have informally secured the approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the subject matter, and desire that the enclosures hereto (Enclosures "A" and "B", and Appendix to Enclosure "B") be circulated for information. All necessary implementing action in this matter has been taken.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
ON ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
BY AUTHORITY OF DoE
BY SWD DATE 6/14/73

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ENCLOSURE "A"

Priority Message to: Commander in Chief, Pacific
Information: COMMANDER JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
From Bradley. The following message is sent for the Joint
Chiefs of Staff: "The Atomic Energy Commission desires that
upon completion of operation SANDSTONE, the Eniwetok Atoll
retained as a permanent proving ground for atomic weapons.
It is contemplated that the Eniwetok Atoll and its territorial
waters will remain a 'closed area' under the provisions of
Strategic Trusteeship agreement of the United Nations Charter
throughout the remainder of this year and for the year 1949.
You will be advised of any changes in these plans.

"On or about 1 June 1948, the exact date to be as mutually
agreed between yourself and Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, you
will assume over-all military responsibility for the Eniwetok Atoll
and the atomic weapons proving ground established thereon.
In fulfilling this responsibility you will, with minimum force
required for the accomplishment of your mission: (1) Establish
a garrison on Eniwetok Atoll; (2) Maintain the status of Eniwetok
Atoll and its territorial waters as a 'closed area'; (3) Maintain
the existing standby facilities as turned over to you by
Commander Joint Task Force Seven; (4) Maintain housing and
messing facilities suitable for the support of Post-SANDSTONE
scientific and survey parties of not to exceed 50 men at a
one time; (5) Provide necessary safety measures to protect
members of the garrison forces from radiological hazards.
You will not be responsible for the safety measures adopted to
protect the members of duly authorized scientific and survey
parties from radiological hazards. This responsibility will
rest with the senior member of the party.

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of COMUS. It is also desired to prevent unauthorized photography, trespassing, or the removal of smaller samples. However, because of limitation in available manpower, permanent guard of the contaminated islands of the Atoll need not be maintained normally. In carrying out your assigned mission with respect to Eniwetok Atoll, you are authorized to call on all three Services in the Pacific Command for such support as may be required. Armed Forces Special Weapons Project will, upon request, make available to your command the necessary radiological monitoring personnel, to include one radiological medical officer to carry out the provisions of paragraph (5) above."

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periodic surveys following the tests. Since these contaminated

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Enclosure "B"

8. The Atomic Energy Commission should be prepared to allocate funds to defray the cost of any special items not normally borne by the three Services as a part of their routine operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

a. Note that the necessary preparations for the reception of a small garrison force on the Eniwetok Atoll are being accomplished by JTF-7 as part of SANDSTONE rollup.

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remove or sample more difficult. This would
reduce the radiological hazard.

5. Informal advice from the AEC is that it is desirable to provide absolute insurance for an indefinite period against any unauthorized entry and the securing of information, particularly the collection of samples on the ground, but that this would be prohibitive in cost because of the size of the force required. A calculated risk in this regard seems to be implicit in the decision to conduct tests outside the continental limits of the United States. The dangers of unauthorized agencies obtaining technical information of value on the Zero Islands are:

a. Determination of blast and radiological effect by examination of test structures on Zero Islands. JTF-7 will obliterate or move such structures to prevent accurate measurements.

b. Collection of samples around the tower sites for later laboratory tests. In order for any unauthorized agency to obtain profitable sample materials, it is estimated that (after filling the craters with sand or dirt if this is necessary) surface soil would have to be removed in quantities readily detected by general surveillance only.

6. On about 1 June 1948, when JTF-7 will have taken the measures necessary for rollup and establishment of the permanent garrison, the command assuming over-all Post-SANDSTONE military responsibility for Eniwetok Atoll should assume control. Since the Marshall Islands subarea is a part of his

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b. Approve the transfer of over-all Post-SANDSTONE military responsibility for the Eniwetok Atoll to CINCPAC on or about 1 June 1948.

c. Obtain the concurrence of the AEC to the attached proposed directive to CINCPAC (Appendix hereto).

d. After concurrence of the AEC, issue the directive in the Appendix hereto to CINCPAC for implementation.

e. Make arrangements with the Atomic Energy Commission to allocate funds as may be necessary to defray the cost of housing the garrison and of any special items not normally borne by the three Services as a part of their routine operations.

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a "closed area" under the provisions of the Strategic Trusteeship agreement of the United Nations Charter throughout the remainder of this year and for the year 1949. You will be advised of any changes in these plans.

2. On or about 1 June 1948, the exact date to be as mutually agreed between yourself and Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, you will assume over-all military responsibility for the Eniwetok Atoll and the atomic weapons proving ground established thereon. In fulfilling this responsibility, you will, with minimum forces required for the accomplishment of your mission:

a. Establish a garrison on Eniwetok Atoll.

b. Maintain the status of Eniwetok Atoll and its territorial waters as a "closed area."

c. Maintain the existing standby facilities as turned over to you by CJTF-7.

d. Maintain housing and messing facilities suitable for the support of Post-SANDSTONE scientific and survey parties of not to exceed 50 men at any one time.

e. Provide necessary safety measures to protect members of the garrison forces from radiological hazards. You will not be responsible for the safety measures adopted to protect the members of duly authorized scientific and survey parties from radiological hazards. This responsibility will rest with the senior member of the party.

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