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HEADQUARTERS
DEFENSE ATOMIC SUPPORT AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

DASA CIRCULAR
NUMBER 20-3

10 August 1962

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ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA AND DESIGN STANDARDS
FOR ATOMIC WEAPONS SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Circular is to establish policies and delineate responsibilities for actions required in implementing DOD Directive 4145.20.
2. Background. For the past several years, the Defense Atomic Support Agency has been responsible for the establishment of environmental criteria and construction standards for atomic weapon storage and maintenance facilities. These responsibilities included the review of construction plans for Service storage sites and surveillance of completed construction to assure that environmental criteria and construction standards have been complied with. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently reviewed the DASA responsibilities with respect to atomic weapon Service storage facilities, and they have determined that the Services are now capable of accomplishing review of plans and surveillance of completed construction. However, this determination reaffirmed the DASA responsibilities for the preparation of environmental criteria and construction standards for atomic weapon storage and maintenance facilities. DOD Directive 4145.20 carries out the above mentioned transfer of responsibilities from DASA to the Services and provides the Services and DASA with policy governing the provision and use of criteria and standards for the construction of atomic weapon storage and maintenance facilities.
3. Policy. DASA will:
 - a. Establish and maintain close liaison with the Military Departments, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Armed Services Explosives Safety Board, and the Joint Board on Future Storage of Atomic Weapons in the preparation of environmental criteria and design standards for the construction of atomic weapon storage facilities.
 - b. Provide in the Atomic Weapons Storage Facilities Manual guidance, environmental criteria and design standards for facilities used for the storage and maintenance of atomic weapons. Criteria, standards, and design guidance contained in the manual, and in subsequent changes thereto, will be coordinated with the Military Departments and other agencies listed in a. above.

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John J. Bishop
Date 15 Sep 94

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c. Monitor atomic weapon development trends to assure the timely issuance of environmental criteria and construction standards applicable to storage and maintenance facilities required for future atomic weapons. Develop typical site plans for and special structures as required for the storage and maintenance of such weapons.

d. Render, when requested, advice and technical assistance to the Military Departments and the Unified and Specified Commands regarding the design and construction of atomic weapon storage facilities.

e. Provide support for, and participate in tests of storage and maintenance structures, or components thereof, to determine adequacy of new concepts or methods of improving current design.

f. Assure that the criteria and standards as provided for in the subject DOD Directive are adhered to at atomic weapon storage and maintenance facilities constructed and operated by DASA.

4. Responsibilities.

a. Headquarters, DASA will:

(1) Provide, within the Directorate of Logistics, the central point of contact on logistics matters with the Military Departments and other agencies listed in paragraph 3a above.

(2) Maintain current knowledge of Service weapon systems and utilization of atomic bombs and warheads and related criteria and construction standards established to assure the maintenance of operational reliability, safety and security of the atomic weapon components of these systems.

(3) Insure, by means of information copies of drawings and publications or through direct liaison with the Services, that the DASA is informed of all typical or definitive design and criteria adopted for use in the storage and maintenance of atomic weapons.

(4) Assure that all environmental criteria and construction standards contained in the Atomic Weapon Storage Facilities Manual and all revisions thereto have been coordinated with the Military Departments and, as necessary, with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Armed Services Explosives Safety Board, and the Joint Board on Future Storage of Atomic Weapons.

(5) Initiate new concepts in design of atomic weapons storage and maintenance structures to meet special safety requirements of host nations in overseas areas and to assure continued compatibility of such facilities with the storage and maintenance requirements for existing and

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future atomic weapons types. As appropriate, conduct or arrange with the Services and the Armed Services Explosive Safety Board (ASESB) for conducting high explosives tests to establish the economy, safety and operational practicability of such new concepts.

(6) Make periodic visits to atomic weapon storage and maintenance facilities of the Military Departments for the purpose of gathering data to be utilized in formulating or modifying criteria and standards for the construction of atomic weapons storage facilities.

(7) When requested, assist the Military Departments and the Unified and Specified Commands by providing technical assistance in connection with the design and construction of facilities for the storage and maintenance of atomic weapons, including related physical security systems.

(8) As requested by the Services, review design features of proposed atomic weapons storage and maintenance facilities that influence the operational reliability, safety and security of atomic weapons.

(9) When requested, render assistance to and participate with/ the Military Departments in the design and testing of structures intended for the storage of atomic weapons.

(10) Act as the principal staff advisor to the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the design and construction features of atomic weapons storage and maintenance facilities that affect the safety and security of stored weapons.

(11) Review, evaluate and maintain records of all exceptions to the provisions of the DOD Directive 4145.20 which are authorized by the Chiefs of Services and the Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands. As appropriate, advise the Secretary of Defense of the nature and effect of such exceptions.

b. Commander, Field Command, will:

(1) Assemble and maintain current, technical information on environmental criteria and construction standards and design guidance to be embodied in the Atomic Weapons Storage Facilities Manual.

(2) Prepare the original draft of all complete revisions of the Atomic Weapons Storage Facilities Manual. Normally such revisions will be scheduled for every three years but may be required at shorter intervals depending upon new weapon developments and/or radical changes in storage criteria required as a result of new knowledge obtained from tests or weapons accident experience. Drafts of revised editions of the manual will be submitted to Headquarters, DASA, for review, Service

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coordination and approval prior to publication.

(3) Publish and distribute the Atomic Weapons Facilities Manual and all necessary additions and revisions after completion of the coordination covered in (2) above.

(4) Maintain a current file of definitive or typical drawings and of specific criteria and design standards for atomic weapons storage and maintenance facilities as issued by the Services, the Unified and Specified Commands, and NATO.

(5) Continuously monitor atomic weapons research and development activities conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Military Departments to assure that the storage and maintenance requirements for new and anticipated atomic weapons are known sufficiently in advance to permit the timely furnishing of advice and guidance to Service facility planners for programming and design of storage and maintenance facilities for such future weapons.

(6) As requested by the Services, review design features of proposed atomic weapons storage and maintenance facilities, including physical security devices and systems, that influence the operational reliability, safety and security of atomic weapons. Keep Chief, DASA informed of such Service requests and of the actions taken with respect thereto.

(7) Participate as appropriate with Headquarters, DASA personnel in visits to Service atomic weapon storage and maintenance sites for the purpose of gathering data to be utilized in formulating or modifying criteria and standards for construction of atomic weapons facilities.

(8) When requested, render assistance to, and participate with Headquarters, DASA and the Military Departments in the design and testing of structures intended for the storage of atomic weapons.

5. References.

- (a) DASA Charter, dated 6 May 1959.
- (b) Atomic Weapons Storage Facilities Manual as published by the Chief, Defense Atomic Support Agency.
- (c) DOD Directive 4145.20 dated 29 Nov 1961, "Environmental Criteria and Design Standards for Atomic Weapons Storage and Maintenance Facilities."

FOR THE CHIEF:

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