

OSD1.941104.021 *W*
10/23/53

ATOMIC ENERGY DUTIES

in

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Notes used by the B. at Staff Council mtg 10/23/53

*Historical document
AEC (copy)*

- 1. Unique set-up of Atomic Energy Public Law 585
Civilian operation and control;
Military participation through MIC.

Authority and responsibility to develop and manufacture atomic weapons resides in AEC by law. The Department of Defense is user. Inherently the manufacturer (AEC) decides what will be made. The user (DOD) must accept the AEC product. Negotiation and mutual understanding are the primary requisites to a successful operation. There is no military authority here comparable to the conventional relationship which applies when a Service Department goes to a manufacturer to produce military end items.

POINT 1:

The DOD has no ^{*effective*} or operational statutory authority concerning AEC development or production of weapons or weapons storage (custody).

- 2. Atomic energy activity has grown rapidly and has expanded in all directions, both in the AEC and in the military departments.

Organization and administrative controls require strong leadership in both agencies if well-organized programs are to be developed and coordinated.

WNRC: 17-28 Oct 94
 ACCESSION: 69A-1390
 RG: 330
 File Name: 13-ORG-Military Liaison Committee (1949-59)
 Box: 1

AEC form of set-up is poorly suited to sound organizational leadership.

Office of the Secretary of Defense has lacked in the past adequate mechanism to integrate Service views and needs.

POINT 2:

The MLC channel has been hampered by uncertainty as to AEC policies and plans on the one hand; and has been unable to coordinate Service views as the Policy level within the DOD.

Plans and programs have become a free-for-all due to lack of leadership.

3. MLC has been forced to operate under the above difficulties. Separate efforts of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the AEC resulted in confusion and cross purposes which were solved by letter directive of Pres. Truman on 12/15/50.

A special committee of the National Security Council evolved as a forum to resolve differences between AEC and the DOD.

The MLC has been forced to operate under the extreme difficulty of lack of responsible leadership to resolve differences between AEC and DOD.

4. Structure and activity of MLC:

Service Members: (1) The Chief atomic energy officer
of the Service

(2) The Deputy Chief of Operations.

Visitors: (1) Director of Military Applications, AEC
(2) Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons
Project.

Activities: a. To be knowledgeable about AEC activities, specifically in military matters and to inform, interpret, and advise what the military point of view is with respect to AEC activities.

b. To be knowledgeable about DOD atomic energy activities and to inform, interpret, and advise the DOD of the AEC point of view, with respect to their military tasks.

c. To control information on atomic energy matters relating to military applications of atomic energy.

To carry out these activities the MIC has a staff of 16 officers; and 14 civilians located in the AEC Building.

Work of staff:

- a. Staff analysis; and
- b. Report of AEC activities.

The Committee members give advice on selected topics to AEC, to Services, to JCS, to AFSWP, and to the Secretary of Defense on selected topics, meeting every fortnight for this purpose.

Staff meeting once a week.

Six to ten inspection trips to AEC installations a year.

Typical agenda for meeting attached.

5. AEC leadership outside our domain.

Sources of information: Monthly Progress Report;
Semi-annual report to JCAE;
Annual Report of AEC to President;
Case Staff Studies.

6. Department of Defense leadership:

Directive of April 13, 1953, setting up Office of the
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy).

Movement of centralization of policies and decentraliza-
tion of operations.

Important to have Assistant Secretaries join with the MIC,
as appropriate, to discuss mutual DOD-AEC in their respective
spheres of interest.

Sources of information: 1. AFSWP Planning Documents;
2. 1954 Atomic Energy Program
(compiled by Assistant to the
Secretary of Def (AE))

7. Summary:

- a. MIC is unique forum to discuss policy and courses of
action. Strictly a recommending body.
- b. AEC has basic weapons job in its own right.
- c. DOD's job is mainly with delivery of weapons, but must
in the future take over the non-nuclear phases of most of the
newer weapons systems.
- d. NSC is the agency which reconciles views of the DOD
and the AEC. Directives of NSC come to AEC and DOD in parallel
lines.

D R A F T

DGW/jbk
5/25/53

*John
1-550(F:)*
Detachment

The Honorable Gordon Dean,
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

Dear Mr. Dean:

As you know, the Department of Defense has recently issued ^a directives establishing the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy); and ^{also} revising ^{has been revised.} the charter of the Military Liaison Committee. In order to avoid lost time and confusion in the execution of business connected with the military aspects of atomic energy, I believe that the following delineation of fields of interest of agencies of the DOD will clarify the channels which should be employed by the AEC in such matters and will expedite their execution.

a. Matters appropriate for consideration by the NSC and the President:

- (1) Military requirements for the production of atomic weapons will be stated by the JCS to the Secretary of Defense ^{if he approves,} who will ~~in turn~~ ^{requirements} refer the matter to the NSC (SC) for correlation with production capabilities of the AEC and for subsequent preparation of specific programs of manufacture of weapons. Presidential approval of such programs will constitute authority for the AEC to manufacture the numbers and types of weapons involved, and for the DOD to initiate the necessary planning.
- (2) Agencies of the DOD which desire to undertake the job of manufacturing specific weapons, or components uniquely associated with atomic weapons, will make the appropriate

who
request or recommendation to the Secretary of Defense; will,
after obtaining the recommendation of the MLC (see Item d. below), forward the matter to the NSC (SC) for recommendation to the President. Presidential approval will authorize the DOD to designate a "cognizant agency" within the DOD and to manufacture the item concerned.

b. Matters appropriate for direct communication between the Secretary of Defense and the AEC:

- (1) All important policy matters or top-level operational matters which require a ^{DOD} decision will be handled by such direct communication.
- (2) Military requirements for development of atomic weapons will be stated by the JCS to the Secretary of Defense, who will then deal directly with the AEC. The Secretary of Defense will use the services of the MLC in working out the details (see Item d. below). Approval will be by agreement ^{BETWEEN} ~~by~~ the Chairman, AEC and the Secretary of Defense. Such agreement will become the authority for AEC to produce the prototype and for the DOD to initiate the necessary planning.
- (3) Military requirements for prototype development of nuclear power plants will come to the Secretary of Defense through military channels. The Secretary of Defense will use the services of the MLC in working out the details (See Item d. below). Approval will be by agreement ^{BETWEEN} ~~by~~ the Chairman, AEC and the Secretary of Defense.

c. Matters appropriate for direct communication between the AEC and a cognizant DOD agency.

- (1) In cases where a particular Service or other agency of the DOD has been given a "cognizant agency" assignment on matters concerning atomic weapons, the "cognizant agency" will be responsible for the exchange of information between itself and the AEC.
- (2) The AFSWP will keep the Secretary of Defense informed as to the current status of all atomic weapons programs, and will deal directly with the AEC to the extent necessary to perform this function.
- (3) The AFSWP will be the sole agency of the DOD to ~~deal with~~ ^{transmit approved} atomic weapons requirements to the AEC and to interpret ~~AEC for transmittal and interpretation of the approved~~ ^{these requirements whenever there is no cognizant agency assigned.} ~~these requirements whenever there is no cognizant agency assigned.~~ ^{has been designated.} ~~military requirements for atomic weapons~~

d. Matters appropriate for direct communication between the MLC and the AEC, and functions of the MLC.

- (1) The MLC is by law the ^{principal} information channel between the DOD and the AEC on all matters relating to military applications of atomic energy. It is particularly hoped that ideas originating within the AEC or through its contacts with civilian scientists in universities and industry ~~the above ideas~~ may be promptly assessed and either given support or have reasons for lack of interest thoroughly explained. The mechanism to accomplish this coordination and initial evaluation will be the MLC. This choice has been made because

of the unique statutory responsibilities of the Committee and the fact that its membership is composed of general and flag rank officers from each Service, who are usually senior military administrators both in staff operation and in atomic logistics. This group is able to bring sound working military judgments to bear and also has access to military views in the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in the respective Departments.

- (2) In the event that the AEC receives duplicate or conflicting requests for information from ~~any~~ source, within the Department of Defense, it shall be the responsibility of the MLC to coordinate or edit such requests so that the AEC is required to deal with the problem only once and with a particular agency of the Department of Defense.
- (3) Insofar as practicable, agencies of the Department of Defense, ~~or~~ other than "cognizant agencies," will consolidate their requests for information and transmit such requests to the Secretary of Defense, who in turn will refer the matter to the MLC to deal directly with the AEC.
- (4) See Item b. above. The MLC will act for the Secretary of Defense in working out with the AEC the details of specific programs of prototype manufacture for each development requirement, thus providing a basis for subsequent agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the AEC.
- (5) See Item a. above. The MLC will, as directed by the Secretary of Defense, prepare recommendations to the Secretary of Defense

concerning proposals by agencies of the Department of Defense to undertake the manufacture of atomic weapons or components uniquely associated therewith.

- (6) The MLC will keep the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff fully informed of the significant activities of the AEC as they relate to the manufacturing operations of the AEC for production of fissionable and other materials essential to the fission and fusion processes; also, AEC activities in the development of nuclear power plant prototypes.
- (7) The MLC will review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense as to the scope and content of atomic weapons research programs by the AEC and the proposed programs of the AEC for atomic weapons tests for weapons development purposes.
- (8) The MLC will review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on all proposals with which the Department of Defense may associate itself on matters relating to the military applications of atomic energy.
- (9) The MLC will visit and inspect the principal facilities of the AEC twice a year, if practicable, for the primary purpose of ascertaining what new ideas and embryonic developments are in the discussion stage and have not yet been formalized in reports by the AEC to the Secretary of Defense. On these same visits the status of the manufacturing operations of the AEC for fissionable and other materials essential to the fission and fusion processes should be examined to the extent possible.

(10) The MLC will coordinate and monitor inquiries to the AEC from the service Secretaries and the principal staff agencies of the Office, Secretary of Defense, when more than one service or agency is involved.

It should be noted from the foregoing that many of the functions formerly handled directly between the AEC and the MLC, such as policy matters and operational matters requiring a Department of Defense decision, are in the future to be handled directly between the AEC and the Secretary of Defense, with the NSC and the President involved as appropriate. The role of the MLC thus now becomes the statutory role specified in the Atomic Energy Act, namely that of advising and consulting with the Atomic Energy Commission on all atomic energy matters relating to military applications, and of informing and advising the Secretary of Defense on activities of the AEC and other agencies in the atomic energy field.

Robert LaBaron