

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ARMED FORCES SPECIAL WEAPONS PROJECT  
P. O. BOX 2610  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

110-AFSWP

5999

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
THE CHIEF, ARMED FORCES  
SPECIAL WEAPONS PROJECT

SWPSP-1

JUL 1 1951

SUBJECT: Mission and Responsibilities of the Armed Forces  
Special Weapons Project

TO: Executive Secretary  
Research and Development Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

ARM1.941109.010

1. Attached for your information are five copies of the new statement of the mission and responsibilities of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project as contained in letter of 12 July 1951 signed by the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force.

2. It is requested that the attached letters be given such dissemination within the Research and Development Board as you deem appropriate.

FOR THE CHIEF, AFSWP:

*H. C. Donnelly*  
H. C. DONNELLY  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief of Staff

1 Incl  
Ltr dtd 12 Jul 51 (5 cys)

23 June 94  
RG 330, RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
OF DEFENSE  
ENTRY 341, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
RECORDS CONCERNING ORGANIZATIONS, BUDGETS,  
AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT, 1946-1953  
Box # [REDACTED] 505  
File ROB-110 AFSWP [REDACTED]

12 July 1951

SUBJECT: Mission and Responsibilities of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project

TO: The Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project

Pursuant to the authority contained in a letter from the Secretary of Defense to the Chief of Staff, United States Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, dated 21 October 1947, subject: "Armed Forces Special Weapons Project", there are herein set forth the mission and responsibilities of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project and a statement of certain policies under which the responsibilities of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project will be discharged. This letter supersedes a memorandum from the Chief of Staff, United States Army, and the Chief of Naval Operations to the Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project dated 8 July 1947, subject: "Organization of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project".

SECTION I

1. Mission - The mission of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP) is to furnish support to the Army, Navy, and Air Force in the field of atomic weapons by providing technical, logistic, and training services.

SECTION II

2. Responsibilities

a. In providing technical services to the Armed Forces the AFSWP will be responsible for the following functions:

(1) Preparing technical directives for use within the Services, covering:

(a) Minimum technical qualifications of personnel authorized to perform assembly, disassembly, surveillance, inspection, repackaging, and handling of atomic weapons and atomic weapons components.

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- (b) Minimum standards of training proficiency in the assembly, disassembly, inspection, maintenance, surveillance, repackaging, and handling of atomic weapons.
  - (c) Physical procedures to be employed in the inspection, assembly, disassembly, surveillance, modernization, repackaging, handling, transportation, and storage of atomic weapons and atomic weapons components.
  - (d) Minimum standards of maintenance and calibration for tools, test equipment, and handling equipment which are authorized to be used on atomic weapons and atomic weapons components.
  - (e) Tolerances for the operational assembly of atomic weapons components.
  - (f) Minimum standards for technical safety.
- (2) Informing responsible commanders of the probable results of divergence from technical standards.
  - (3) Furnishing recommendations to the Services concerning the composition of atomic weapons assembly organizations.
  - (4) Maintaining an inspection system for determining the status of technical proficiency of atomic weapons assembly organizations, of the maintenance of atomic weapons materiel, and of AFSWP support.
  - (5) Effecting liaison between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Armed Forces in research and development of atomic weapons and of AEC-furnished equipment, in areas not covered by the Military Liaison Committee.
  - (6) Consolidating the operational suitability testing programs of the Services and submitting them for programmatic review and approval to the Military Liaison Committee.
  - (7) Conducting the following activities in connection with field tests of atomic weapons or atomic explosions:
    - (a) Preparation of preliminary plans and budgets for the military phases of atomic weapons tests.

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- (b) Coordination and integration of Army, Navy, and Air Force requirements for experimental data obtainable through field tests and submitting recommendations as to the technical participation of the Services in these tests.
  - (c) Technical assistance, as required, to commanders of task forces concerned with atomic weapons tests.
  - (d) Continuous review and analysis of results of tests from the scientific, phenomenological, and financial standpoints, and cooperation with the individual Services in the preparation and dissemination of data of interest to the Department of Defense.
- (8) Coordinating the study of military effects of atomic weapons, to include the collection, review, and dissemination of data and, as feasible, the conduct of supporting studies pertaining thereto; and determining technical criteria for use in estimating the effects of atomic weapons against all types of targets.
- (9) Furthering the development of defensive measures against atomic weapons, through such means as:
- (a) Coordination and support of training for defensive measures where joint Service programs are desirable.
  - (b) Evaluation of weapons effects data and dissemination of results of such evaluations to the Services, and also to other governmental agencies when appropriate.
  - (c) Coordination of military research and development in the field of radiac instruments, individual and collective protective devices, radiological decontamination procedures, and medical aspects of atomic warfare, in accordance with the policies of the Research and Development Board.
- (10) Furnishing assistance to the Services, as requested, in matters pertaining to the security of atomic energy information, materials, and installations.
- (11) Furnishing technical assistance and liaison to the Services and other governmental agencies, as requested or required.

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b. In providing logistic services to the Armed Forces the AFSWP will be responsible for the following functions:

- (1) Insuring the efficient implementation of plans for the transfer of weapons from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense, and furnishing assembled atomic weapons as directed by the Chiefs of the three Services.
- (2) Maintaining a record and control system to insure that weapons and materiel are located and in proper status as necessary to fulfill war plans.
- (3) Publishing such supply regulations governing the accountability and responsibility for Restricted Data materials as made necessary by the Atomic Energy Commission accountability and responsibility requirements and, as necessary, to supplement existing Service supply regulations.
- (4) Furnishing construction criteria, in conjunction with the Atomic Energy Commission, for atomic weapons storage sites as necessary to insure that facilities are adequate for the assembly, handling, storage, and surveillance of atomic weapons and materiel.
- (5) Consolidating the requirements of the Armed Forces for atomic weapons materiel which must be procured from the Atomic Energy Commission and transmitting these requirements to the Atomic Energy Commission.
- (6) Preparing and distributing special weapons equipment lists (SWEL) and special weapons training allowances (SWTA) for all military units that require special weapons equipment.
- (7) Procuring and distributing initial supply of materiel in accordance with SWEL's and SWTA's.
- (8) Procuring and distributing resupply of materiel in accordance with SWEL's and SWTA's as arranged between AFSWP and the individual Services.
- (9) Assisting in the performance of initial inspection and acceptance of AEC-procured atomic weapons materiel as mutually agreed between the Atomic Energy Commission and AFSWP.

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- (10) Effecting the exchange of weapons and equipment for modernization, modification, and quality assurance programs with the Atomic Energy Commission.
- (11) Preparing required AFSWP budget estimates.
- (12) Operating specialized facilities for calibration, repair, and maintenance of special weapons equipment.

c. In providing training services to the Armed Forces the AFSWP will be responsible for the following functions:

- (1) Technical training of such personnel as may be required by the Chiefs of the three Services in the assembly, handling, storage, surveillance, maintenance, salvage, and disposal of atomic weapons.
- (2) Assisting the three Services by (a) conducting courses for, or (b) preparing courses and instructional material and training instructors for:
  - (a) The technical training of personnel in weapon characteristics and procedures related to atomic weapons delivery.
  - (b) The orientation of key officers of the three Services in military applications of atomic energy.
  - (c) The indoctrination of designated officers of the three Services in the characteristics and effects of atomic weapons and in the technical considerations essential to the employment of atomic weapons.
- (3) Preparing training programs for use by the Services in maintaining technical proficiency of their personnel engaged in assembly, handling, storage, surveillance, maintenance, and salvage of atomic weapons.
- (4) Assisting the commandants of Service schools, through appropriate channels, in preparing courses and training instructors, and collaborating in the preparation of atomic energy instructional material within the Services.

SECTION III

3. Policies - In discharging responsibilities set forth above, the AFSWP will be governed by the following:

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a. AFSWP staff responsibilities for functions in the atomic energy field will be exercised in coordination with staff divisions and subordinate agencies of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force which are responsible for allied activities.

b. AFSWP will utilize established agencies of the Armed Forces to carry out programs for which suitable facilities already exist. Existing organizational structures will not be duplicated, nor will additional activities be established, when the AFSWP mission can be accomplished by available means.

c. AFSWP will serve as representative of the Armed Forces in dealing with non-military agencies in matters under its cognizance in the field of atomic energy.

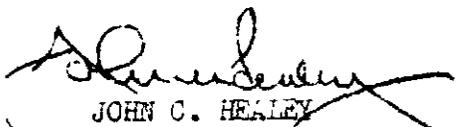
d. AFSWP will command the Field Command, AFSWP, including Sandia Base, National Stockpile Sites, and such military units as may be assigned to AFSWP. When employment of atomic weapons requires participation of AFSWP units or personnel in an operational mission, such units or personnel will be placed under the operational control of a combat commander at an appropriate stage of the operation.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins  
 J. LAWTON COLLINS  
 General, U. S. Army  
 Chief of Staff

/s/ Forrest Sherman  
 FORREST SHERMAN  
 Admiral, U. S. Navy  
 Chief of Naval Operations

/s/ Hoyt S. Vandenberg  
 HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
 General, U. S. Air Force  
 Chief of Staff

Certified to be a true copy:

  
 JOHN C. HEALEY  
 Lt. Colonel, USAF  
 Adjutant General, AFSWP

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