

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE
P. O. BOX 5400
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WFP:EW-3310

FEB 23 1957

Rear Admiral B. Hall Huxton
Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN
12th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: URL PROPOSAL FOR WEATHER DATA COLLECTION AT TONGI ATOLE

Dear Admiral Huxton:

Development of HAIDEACK planning is being made by this office on two bases. In general, these bases will be predicated on the use or non-use of Tongi Atoll. (Time differential will be the major factor involved.) The two bases will be further subdivided by consideration of permanentizing Nan Camp or retaining Nan Camp as a temporary installation.

While IMA's and Commission's decision is pending our transmittal of the URL proposal with our recommendations, it might be well to explore the URL proposal for establishing a weather unit at Tongi to refine the extrapolated data compiled by Commander Rex.

For this purpose, we are transmitting the enclosures for study and determination of possible scaling down the requirements to a minimum. Further, there will be the question of surface lift and continued support required for construction, and later, operation.

Holmes & Harver have discussed the problem with members of my staff and would be prepared for joint conference with your representatives. May we have an expression of the feasibility of a conference at an early date convenient to Joint Task Force SEVEN?

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Sincerely yours,

W. H. Holmes, Director
Task Division

2749

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Without Enclosures

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AUTHORITY: SAC/ADCS/ADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: B. B. Schmid	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEWER DATE: 6-16-94	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: JCB	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: JCB	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

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Encl 2

Enclosures:

1. Cy HAN ltr dtd 2/15/57
w/attach
2. Cy Memo to Graves dtd 2/21/57
w/cy 2/18A Minutes

CC: Director, IDA, AHC, WASH D. C. ✓

CSG 7-1, IASL

Dr. A. G. Graves, IASL

Dr. G. W. Johnson, USRL

HAN, IosA

F. W. Mohner, AHC Contr Rep

s/o HAN, IosA

Actg Chief, Biostat Div, NPS

2750

February 19, 1957

CITE: Copas-313

Brigadier General Alfred D. Starbird
Director of Military Application
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES
NO 2 OF 16 COPIES, SERIES 2

THRU: Mr. K. P. Hertford, Manager
Albuquerque Operations Office
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Subject: Proposed Development of Taongi as a Weapons Test Site

Dear General Starbird:

For several months AEC has been studying the possible use of Taongi as a weapons test site during Operation HARDTACK. In making the evaluation of the advantages as compared with the costs and operational aspects enthusiastic assistance was provided by Commander, JTF-7, the J.I. Staff, Commander Dan Rex of the JTF-7 Meteorological Center, and the 7.5 Task Group Staff. Reports on the latest considerations were provided by Dr. G. L. Felt on operational matters (memo to A. C. Graves from G. L. Felt, Cite: J-15G-190 dated 4 February 1957); Commander Dan Rex on the expected meteorology (Climatology of Taongi, JTF-7C, 2 January 1957); and Mr. Sam Howell of Holmes and Narver on costs of development of the site (letter to Mr. J. Sanders, Test Division, AEC, ALOB, dated 30 January 1957). Opinions on fallout were obtained from Dr. Fay Shelton. Using the material provided from these sources and in consideration of the presently proposed shot program for HARDTACK, comprising 25 to 30 events with yields up to 40 KT, a general analysis has been prepared by Mr. W. Gibbins and is included as an attachment.

In Mr. Gibbins' report two schedules are developed based on the assumption, in one case, that only Bikini is available and the other in which both Bikini and Taongi are available as shot sites. In preparing the schedules it was assumed that for the operation as a whole dual capability for negative shots would exist. It was proposed that the operation would start May 1, 1958, so weather was examined only for the summer period.



Without attachment

1. REVIEWER DATE	2/19/57
2. AUTHORITY	1901 Constitution Avenue
3. NAME	Alfred D. Starbird
4. AND REVIEWER DATE	2/19/57
5. AUTHORITY	1901 Constitution Avenue
6. NAME	Alfred D. Starbird

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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

Reg # 9319



February 19, 1957

The conclusions and special requirements pointed out in the study may be summarized briefly as follows:

1. The use of Taongi and Bikini would shorten UCRL operations overseas by about 7 weeks, over that time required if only Bikini were available. The effects on shortening the operation as a whole is not fully known but it would likely amount to three weeks to a month.
2. Taongi would be used only as a barge site. All diagnostics and firing would be accomplished from a ship. Use of the ship will permit flexibility in operation and will further reduce the time of stay of technical personnel overseas by about one month, since installation and dry running of equipment can be accomplished while the ship is still at San Francisco. The ship will need to be diverted soon in order to provide adequate time to fit it out. It is estimated that fitting out of the ship will cost about \$1,200,000.
3. The cost of site development on the basis proposed is estimated at \$3,000,000.

In view of all of the stated considerations it is our recommendation that the Taongi site be developed for use during HARDTACK. As a corollary requirement, a weather station should be established at Taongi now, even if ship-borne initially, to collect meteorological data through the present year.

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed By
Gerald W. Johnson

G. W. Johnson
Test Division Leader

GWJ/wl

Attachment - COL-57-11

Distribution:

- Cy. 1A - Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird w/att. 1A
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13A - H. E. Parsons, PCWT w/att. 13A
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15A & 16A - G. W. Johnson, UCRL w/att. 15A & 16A



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