

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
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JAN - JUNE 61

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The following notes cover the first half of Calendar year 61. PJ

Within WET, a fair amount of activity continued in the Vela Uniform program and program 800 was brought to a 12 month readiness status. The strength of this group remained about the same.

The Test Division feels that Project 800 could be able to respond on a 9 month basis on a "crash basis".

As of the end of FY 61, only 3.4 of the 4.3 million dollars for Vela Uniform had been committed.

Correspondence in early 1961 indicates that the problem of not being able to proof test and verify good yield numbers for weapons that are being brought into the stockpile is causing some problems in strategic planning. DASA is sending best estimates from the AEC to the JSTPS and describing why these numbers are estimates and the fact that the AEC cannot do better. JB

Note that in early 61 there was correspondence or at least proposed correspondence from the Deputy Secretary of Defense to Seaborg commenting of the situation with nuclear weapons and emphasizing, as if some additional impetus were needed, the need for the AEC laboratories to continue their efforts and perhaps step up their efforts in weapons research. JB

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Note that there were plenty of safety studies being performed by the NWSSG and other service agencies on their system/device configurations which utilize nuclear weapons. JB

The direct optical system has been received in Los Alamos and will be operated checked out soon.

- ③ "JTF-7 Manual 61-1 (Draft), Operations and Reactivation Manual,"
March 1961, DASA-70-03346.

FT

Notes that "when it became apparent that the moratorium would continue and that there was little likelihood that testing in the atmosphere would be resumed, the Proving Ground was placed in a caretaker status and finally transferred to the PMR for administration and use as a tracking station. The Joint Task Force was phased down and slated for eventual deactivation."

Has personnel staffing of all JTF's since WWII. Has narrative descriptions of AEC, DOD, DASA, JTF, etc. and roles in nuclear testing.

Details of moratorium thinking on JTF/DASA/EPG are quoted here:

"As a result of the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing a study was made of the requirements for an organization for future test operations by a group representing JTF-7, DASA and the AEC. "The Report of the Study Group on the Organization for Future Test Operations" recommended that the staff of Joint Task Force SEVEN be reduced to a planning staff and that the EPG be placed in a standby status with a twelve month capability to resume testing. This study was approved and implementation was begun in the fall of 1959.

FT
" It was soon apparent that maintaining the EPG in a twelve month readiness status would be difficult and expensive. With available funds and personnel the twelve month readiness status would shortly begin to slip and it would continue to slip at an accelerating rate as time went on. Another study was ordered and as a result the RETO Study (Reappraisal of Requirements for the Eniwetok Proving Ground and the Readiness Status and Functions of JTF-7) was forthcoming. This study recommended that the EPG be placed in a caretaker status and that JTF-7 be reduced to a planning division within the DASA organization or be disestablished.

" About this time the Pacific Missile Range indicated an interest in the EPG as a tracking station and impact area. After some negotiations it was decided to release the Proving Ground to the PMR with the provision that on request it would be returned, and that nothing should be done to impair the capability of the EPG for weapons testing.

Present status points out that "in accordance with the RETO study, JTF-7 became an integral part of DASA."

CV
In Mar. of 1961, JTF-7 published a draft manual entitled, "Operations and Reactivation Manual" and with the number JTF-7M61-1. This manual lays out for orientation and guidance the history and setup of the Joint Task Force with the specific tasks relegated to the various staff organizations such as J-1 and J-2 and the specific details envisioned for reactivating the Joint Task Force when it becomes necessary.

Here is a formal plan prepared by JTF-7 and published in Mar. of 1961 which is entitled JTF-7 "Operation Plan #1-61 (Master Plan)." It includes the general concept of atmospheric testing overseas with various definitions and general statements of the concept and the mission. The specific functions of the Task Groups are outlined as well as a number of annexes which detail how the Task Force carries out its other support functions and activities. CV

MARCH - 1961

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March At the WWC, Graves expressed the feeling that, however unlikely it may be, a resumption of testing is more possible than a year or so previous. He noted that with the Geneva talks starting later this month and in their present status, an end to the moratorium would probably be abrupt. He raised the question of readiness of a program and appropriate devices. A program set down by Shreffler in April 1960 was felt to be appropriate with minor mods. Device availability would range from less than one month to somewhat longer. ✓

¹⁹⁶¹
3 March letter from Mr. C. L. Tyler of Reeco to Mr. Hohner of the Las Vegas Area Office addresses the impending loss of the underground tunnelling capability. Mr. Tyler documents the present status of the work of this crew which has all but ground to a halt and the fact that he foresees cancellation of the crew and fears laying them off in the near future if there is no more work planned for them to do. In a very lengthy letter he lays out the trials and tribulations involved in originally screening and building a tunnel driving force in the spring of 1958 and the assets which the AEC now has through the development of this force over the several years. He tries to list several small possibilities for using the crew in the near future and even mentions for consideration the possibility of making work by doing an extension of Tunnel U12E. Generally, the letter is a strong plea that the AEC not foolishly not lose a hard-won capability even if it means stockpiling some drifts for the future which he feels would certainly be the economical thing to do. AM