

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Those listed below

DATE February 12, 1953

FROM : R. L. Southwick, Assistant Chief, Public Information Service (RS)

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404682

SUBJECT: DRAFT INFORMATION PLAN FOR "OPEN" SHOT OPERATION UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE

SYMBOL: ISP:RLS

Attached for your approval and/or comments is the first draft of the Information Plan for the "Open" Shot in the Spring, 1953 tests at Nevada.

This is subsequent to AEC 487/31, dated February 6, 1953, Public Information Program for UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE.

Would appreciate having all comments by 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 13, 1953.

Attachment:

Draft cpy of Public Information Plan "Open" Shot Operation
UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE (SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION)

Addressees:

Dr. John Bugher, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine ✓
R. L. Corsbie, Chief, Civil Defense Liaison Branch, Division of
Biology and Medicine
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, USA, Director, Division of Military Ap-
plication
Col. V. G. Huston, Chief, Test Branch, Division of Military Application
Morse Salisbury, Director, Division of Information Services
Public Information Service Staff (S. Thompson, D. Clark, C. Heslep)
Dr. J. G. Beckerley, Director of Classification
Capt. J. A. Waters, Jr., Director, Division of Security
Harold P. Green, Office of General Counsel
Corbin Allardice, Director of Information, New York Operations Office.
R. G. Elliott, Director of Information, Santa Fe Operations Office (2)

CC: L. M. Hargus, Off. of Pub. Info., Department of Defense (3)
Guy Jones, Test Staff, Federal Civil Defense Admin. (2)

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

Jose Diaz 4/21/81
REMOVED BY

W. L. Strousser 4/24/81
DATE

By: W. Trench 6/5/87

COPY FOR DR. JOHN BUGHER, B. & M. - ROOM 1309 EAST BLDG.

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

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2/11/53-RS

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PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN
"OPEN" SHOT
OPERATION UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE

A. PURPOSE

1. To establish policy and procedures for issuing information publicly and for handling observers, both FCDA and correspondents, during the "open" shot on March 17, 1953, in the UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE test series. These policies and procedures are designed to serve the following purposes:

a. To increase public knowledge and understanding of the purpose and need for continental tests;

b. To comply with FCDA's request for an "open" test to increase national interest in the civil defense program by showing examples of damage, radiation monitoring,

c. To provide a procedure for meeting public information requirements of the Test Organization and its components, both civilian and military.

2. To establish the Office of Information Coordinator responsible for supervising the Joint Test Information Office during the operational period for the "open" shot.

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This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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B. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Information Coordinator, responsible to the Commission and the Test Manager, will supervise information activities of all participating agencies and components of the Test Organization related to the "open" shot.

C. ORGANIZATION

1. The Joint Information Office will be the sole coordinating agency for clearance, approval and issuance of any public information relating to the "open" shot and the test series for all participating agencies and organizations.

2. The Office will operate under the direction of the Coordinator of Information. Morse Salisbury, Director of the AEC Division of Information Services, has been designated as Coordinator by the Commission and the Test Manager. Deputy Coordinators have been designated as follows:

Richard G. Elliott, Director of the Joint Test Information Office,
for the Test Organization;

Lee Hargus, Assistant Director of the Office of Public Information,
Department of Defense, for DOD;

Guy P. Jones, Public Relations Officer, Atomic Test Operations Staff,
Federal Civil Defense Administration, for FCDA;

Shelby Thompson, Chief, Public Information Service, AEC, for AEC.

The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators are authorized to communicate directly with their respective headquarters offices and with field units of all participating agencies and organizations.

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3. A project officer (R. L. Southwick) has been designated to supervise registration and accreditation of observers, office space and equipment, arrangements for News Mob facilities and transportation. He will be assisted by FCDA and DOD personnel.

4. Information personnel will be furnished by AEC, DOD and FCDA in sufficient numbers to successfully carry out the purposes of the Information Plan, each agency bearing the cost for travel and per diem by its personnel.

5. Units and organizations participating in test operations may have a direct part in preparation and coordination of their public information material by assigning information personnel to the Joint Information Office. Information personnel stationed at the Nevada Proving Grounds, Desert Rock and Indian Springs Air Base on a continuing basis will furnish support to the Joint Information Office during the operational period.

6. There will be established an Information Advisory Board to deal with any issues of coordination or clearances which may arise. The Information Coordinator will be chairman with the following members:

Deputy Coordinators for the Test Organization, DOD and FCDA;
Director of Test Operations; Director for Scientific Program;
Director, Field Command, AFSWP, and Director, Camp Desert Rock.

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7. The Joint Information Office will be activated for the purposes of the "open" shot on about March 2, 1953.

8. The Classification Officer of the Test Organization will advise and assist the Information Coordinator and his staff on matters of classification and declassification with the assistance of the Classification Officer, Field Command, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project.

9. The Director of Security, Washington, is authorized to assign a representative of his office to advise and assist the Information Coordinator in any developments that might lead to possible security violations which might be averted by information planning and activity.

D. SECURITY OF INFORMATION

1. Only information unclassified or declassified under provisions of the UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE Classification Guide or specifically provided for in this Plan may be issued. The issuance of information includes formal announcements, interviews, "off-the-record" backgrounding or other guidance to uncleared persons in any form by any individual or organization.

2. The Department or Agency inviting official observers/^{who are cleared}is responsible for providing security guidance to each individual and informing him of the limits within which he may discuss publicly his attendance at the test or tests. Security guidance will be included in the briefing of official observers (cleared) to assure uniformity of such guidance and to emphasize security aspects of the test series.

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3. A security agreement, attached as Appendix ____, will be signed by un-cleared observers prior to their admission to the Nevada Proving Grounds.

4. FCDA and correspondent invitees will witness the shot from News Nob, an observation area segregated from cleared personnel except those assigned to conduct the visitors.

E. TYPES OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE ISSUED BY JOINT INFORMATION OFFICE

1. In addition to announcements authorized in the Information Plan for the series (Section E of AEC 487/31, dated February 6, 1953), the following information may be disclosed by the Test Manager.

a. In order that Civil Defense officials may better interpret blast and radiological effects on FCDA structures; yield of device detonated at "open" shot, estimated yield may be disclosed prior to the shot and actual or estimated yield after shot. (Also FCDA has obtained permission for ten un-cleared automotive engineers to assess damage to vehicles. Their technical competence plus their knowledge of the distance of various vehicles from ground zero will enable them to estimate with reasonable accuracy the yield of the device.)

b. Observers may be notified that the time of detonation will be at 5:20 A.M. (Pacific Standard Time) for the purpose of planning transmittal of stories, pictures, programs and other material resulting from the test.

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F. ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION BEFORE AND AFTER "OPEN" SHOT OPERATIONAL PERIOD

1. Provisions of Section F of AEC 487/31, dated February 6, 1953, will apply.

G. INVITATIONS TO OBSERVERS

1. The AEC will invite representatives of newspapers, periodicals, radio, newsreel, photographic, and television stations and services. The number of correspondents who attend will be held to a maximum of 200, if feasible. The invitation will be issued over Chairman Dean's name on behalf of AEC, FCDA and DOD.

2. Invitations to Governors, State FCDA directors and other officials of the national civil defense organization will be issued by the Administrator of FCDA.

3. Appropriate instructions on date of reporting to Las Vegas, security regulations governing admission to the Proving Grounds, identification and other data required by visitors will be included with the invitation.

H. ACCREDITATION

1. All observers must be U. S. citizens.

2. Correspondents must be representatives of United States newspapers, radio stations, wire services, networks, etc.

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3. Correspondents must have presented credentials from their managing editor or executive stating they are the selected representative of the media invited to the test.

I. TRANSPORTATION

1. Transportation between Las Vegas and the Proving Grounds will be furnished -- at cost -- to civil defense and correspondent observers and to personnel assigned by the Joint Information Office as conducting officers and/or security escorts.

2. Security arrangements will be made to prohibit access to unauthorized areas by observers during their visit to the Proving Grounds, Camp MERCURY, Camp DESERT ROCK, Indian Springs Air Base, the Control Point and a forward bunker.

J. AUTHORIZED AREAS FOR VISITS

1. Observers may be conducted to the following areas, although for the purpose of shortening the tour all the stops may not be made:

- a. Indian Springs Air Base
- b. Camp Desert Rock
- c. Camp Mercury
- d. Control Point
- e. News Nob
- f. Forward bunker

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2. Conducted tours will be held on D-2 day (March 15) and on shot day.

K. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

1. All mechanical equipment - cameras, both still, motion pictures and television, recorders and transmitting equipment must be inspected to assure compliance with security regulations and must be operated in conformance with instructions to prevent interference with test transmitting equipment.

2. Photographs will be permitted on the pre-shot tour at the Control Point, News Nob and in the forward area where FCDA structures and shelters are located and at Indian Springs and Camp Desert Rock under appropriate security controls. On shot day photographs will be permitted at News Nob, and, if safety conditions permit, in the forward area after the shot to show damage effects on FCDA structures and shelters.

L. COMMUNICATIONS

1. AEC and FCDA are unable to furnish TWX circuits from the Proving Grounds to Las Vegas. It is probable that the Signal Corps will furnish these facilities as it did in April, 1952, at the request of the wire services and major daily newspapers.

2. Radio and TV networks will probably have to pay for land lines or provide microwave voice circuits at their expense.

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M. OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Official photographs taken by AEC, DOD or ECDA for operational requirements may be issued through the Joint Information Office after security and information review.

2. Plans for any official motion pictures designed for commercial and/or public release must be approved in advance through the Joint Information Office by all participating agencies and organizations.

N. SPONSORSHIP OF RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS

1. Commercial sponsorship of radio and television programs will be permitted

O. OBSERVERS WITH TROOPS

1. A limited number of correspondents may be permitted to accompany troops (not closer than 4,000 yards) on a pool basis with correspondents of the various media selecting their own representatives for this purpose. The number of correspondents permitted to accompany troops will be set by the Test Manager so that they will not cause undue interference with operations.

2. Responsibility for safety of correspondents who may accompany troops will rest with the Department of Defense as does the safety of troops.

P. BRIEFINGS

1. All briefings of observers will be subject to review by the Information Coordinator prior to delivery. Where material intended for use in briefings goes beyond the boundaries established at the 1952 open shot, the Information Coordinator may refer the material to Washington for Commission review.

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