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HISTORICAL ... FOR R. C. SMITH'S APPR... [illegible]

JUN 11 1954

310.1 Task Gr.

J1-797

TO: Commander
Joint Task Force SEVEN
Washington 25, D. C.

Attn: Historian

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 18 PAGE(S)
NO 9 OF 9 COPIES, SERIES A

123447

FROM: Commander, Task Group 7.1

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL REPORT

1. Attached is the fourth installment of CASTLE History as it involves Task Group 7.1 and is submitted in compliance with JTF SEVEN SOP No. 172-701, "Historical Reports", and your TWX DTG 232344Z, April 1954.

2. It will be noted that the enclosure includes an account of final event of CASTLE. It is suggested that the Report of the Commander, Task Group 7.1 be used as an additional source of historical data and that the enclosure be accepted as the final Historical Report from this Headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W. Ogle
William E. Ogle
Commander, Task Group 7.1

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TASK GROUP 7.1 HISTORICAL REPORT

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

11 APRIL-30 MAY 1954

4

[redacted]

FOURTH INSTALLMENT, 11 APRIL-30 MAY

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[redacted]

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

11 April 1954 - 30 May 1954

I. GENERAL

The period 11 April 1954 through 30 May 1954 in CASTLE saw completion of the test program, and return of practically all of the participating personnel and equipment to the ZI. Repeated delays were encountered, principally because of high altitude weather conditions which seemed unacceptable [redacted] Modes of operation were essentially the same as during the first part of the program, with forces being split between Eniwetok and Bikini. The final detonation occurred at Eniwetok and no inordinate fall-out was experienced. An evacuation of Eniwetok of Eniwetok Atoll was not necessary. Roll-up operations centered on Parry. Personnel were phased out in accordance with the status of their respective projects. UCRL personnel departed after the third and fourth detonations; many TU-13 personnel departed after the fifth shot and TU-2 and TU-3 personnel left late in April; thus, after the last shot there was no great last minute rush. Pac Div MATS scheduled extra planes at this time, and except for the breakdown of seven MATS planes at Eniwetok within a period of four days and unsatisfactory MATS relations at Eniwetok, there were no significant transportation problems. Time lost due to weather delays was in part regained by the elimination of one test event, and the program as a whole was concluded a month after the scheduled date of the sixth shot.

II OPERATIONAL

A. Planning Phase

1. As in the earlier part of the program, the J-3 section formalized the more vital plans by issuing Operational Letters pertaining to each event. Operational Letter No. 13 (1) was the recovery plan beginning on [redacted] (subsequently cancelled).

(1) JF-7296, Subj: Operational Letter # 13, ECHO Recovery, 11 Apr 54, CONF.

[redacted]

Operational Letter No. 14 scheduled the [redacted] event from 1000 on minus one day thru preliminary survey a few hours after zero hour. It listed projects participating and ship movements. Operational Letter No. 15 (3) amplified the movement of the Station 10 barge from its slip on Parry to its ultimate mooring in the MIKE crater, Eniwetok, on 16 April, including provision for the accompanying housekeeping vessel. Operational Letter No. 16 (4) explained the movement of the Station 40 [redacted] barge on to the LSD BELLE GROVE in Eniwetok lagoon on 28 April, its transportation to Bikini lagoon, and mooring off YUROCHI. The USS CURTISS and the helicopter barge were moored nearby. Operational Letter No. 17 (5) contained the [redacted] Recovery Plan to begin as soon the practicable after detonation.

Radiological safety, and the need for close coordination of all missions with J-3 were emphasized. A plan for the evacuation of Eniwetok Atoll, explaining definite procedures, was issued (6) in case [redacted] resulted in any significant local fall-out.

2. In all, six changes to the basic TG 7.1 Operation Plan 1-53 were made. The first (7) involved a change of a communications frequency, the second (8) a change of classification of a frequency, and the third (9), fourth (10) and fifth (11) contained changes of shot schedules due to weather conditions.

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(2) JF-6496, Subj: Operational Letter #14, Union Event, 12 Apr 54, SECRET

(3) JF-7319, Subj: Operational Letter #15, 12 Apr 54, CONF

(4) JF-7477, Subj: Operational Letter #16, 14 Apr 54, CONF

(5) JF-7606, Subj: Operational Letter #17, NECTAR Recovery, 19 Apr 54, CONF

(6) JF-8006, Subj: Fall-Out Emergency Evacuation of Eniwetok Atoll, OUO 28 Apr 54

(7) JF-3310, Subj: (Change if frequency), 28 Jan 54, OUO

(8) JF-3335, Subj: (Change in Classification of Frequency) 30 Jan OUO

(9) JF-4677, Subj: (Change of Shot Schedule after BRAVO)6 Mar 54 SECRET RD

(10) JF-6235, Subj: (Change of Shot Schedule after ROMEO)29 Mar SECRET RD

(11) JF-7428, Subj: (Change of Shot Schedule for UNION, YANKEE, NECTAR) 13 Apr 54 SECRET RD

[redacted]

The sixth change contained a date and estimated yield for the [redacted] event, in which the [redacted] device was cancelled and replaced by a modified [redacted] device which arrived in the Forward Area on 16 April.(13) This change had the effect of removing devices requiring liquid fuel and cryogenic equipment from the program, and ended the work previously carried on by TU-2 and TU-3.

3. Check lists were made, itemizing the more important operations in each event.(14)(15) The check list for [redacted] for example,(16) listed activities from 0630 on [redacted] to 0800 [redacted] including recovery missions and flyaways. As for previous events, meetings and consultations were held to finalize plans for the participating aircraft. In connection with [redacted] event, a meeting(17)(18) was held on 2 May, at which the following positions were approved: B-36, altitude 40,000 ft, horizontal range 39,500 ft at zero time, tail toward zero; P4Y2 positions at 30 Nautical Miles from zero; RB-36 controller at 50 Nautical Miles from zero; 2 C-54 photo aircraft at 75 Nautical Miles and one at 50 Nautical Miles from zero. A similar meeting for NECTAR was held(19) for the [redacted] event.

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(12) JF-7957, Subj: (Change of Shot Schedule for YANKEE) 28 Apr ~~SECRET~~ RD

(13) J-3/139, Daily Diary, 9 Apr 54, discussion with TU-4, J-3 and J-4

(14) JF-7346, Subj: UNION Check List, Eniwetok Atoll, CONF, 12 Apr 54

(15) JF-7606, Subj: NECTAR Check List, 17 Apr 54, CONF

(16) JF-8165, Subj: YANKEE Check List, Eniwetok Atoll, 3 May 54, CONF

(17) JF-8221, Subj: Aircraft Positioning Meeting for YANKEE, 4 May 54, ~~SECRET~~ RD

(18) JF-8391, Subj: YANKEE Successful for B-36, 10 May 54, ~~SECRET~~

(19) J-3/148, Daily Diary, Initial NECTAR Aircraft Positioning Meeting

8

[redacted]

1. [redacted] the fourth device of the [redacted] series, was on a barge moored south of YUROCHI and was satisfactorily detonated at Bikini on Monday 26 April 1954. Preparations were supported by the ships ESTES, CURTISS, AINSWORTH, BAIROKO, and other smaller vessels. All ships evacuated the lagoon on the afternoon of minus one and returned about 24 hours later. Eniman airstrip was found to be covered with debris which prevented its immediate use for C-47 shuttle flights. It was cleared to a width of 150 feet full length by 30 April. (First samples arrived at Eniwetok on the morning of 27 April). The [redacted] muster disclosed 441 persons at Eniwetok and 178 at Bikini.

2. [redacted] event was scheduled for 14 April, and had been given all the usual preparatory arrangements. On 12 April an indefinite postponement was announced, and on 13 April [redacted] was cancelled.(20)(21) Dismantling of the URSULA camp began immediately and was completed on 18 April. The primary components of the device, and their dummy counter-parts were returned to storage on 14 April(22) and ultimately returned to the ZI.(23)

3. The [redacted] device, the fifth event of the CASTLE series, wad detonated 5 May 54, on a barge moored in Bikini lagoon. This device was carried from the assembly area barge slip on Parry to the Bikini lagoon on 1 May 54 on the LSD BELLE GROVE. Preparatory work was entirely ship-based, supported by the ships ESTES, CURTISS, BAIROKO, AINSWORTH, and others. (The [redacted] muster listed 344 persons at Eniwetok and 152 at Bikini). All ships departed the lagoon during the afternoon on minus 1 and returned about 24 hours later. A radiological safety survey of the atoll was made on the afternoon of Shot Day.

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(20) JF-7410, Subj: [redacted] has been cancelled, 13 Apr ~~SECRET~~ RD

(21) JF-7418, Subj: ECHO has been cancelled, 13 Apr ~~SECRET~~, also JF-7445&JF-7456

(22) J-3 Daily Diary, 137, 142, 143, 144

(23) JF-7636, return of [redacted] SF and ~~Classified~~ components to ZI, 19 Apr 54 ~~SECRET~~ RD

9

[redacted]

The USS ESTES returned to Eniwetok on the night of [redacted] May. The USS CURTISS returned to Eniwetok on the night of [redacted] 1. Recovery and roll-up work continued with personnel based on the BAIROKO, AINSWORTH, BELLE GROVE, and small craft; and was completed by 11 May 54. All TG 7.1 and TG 7.5 personnel returned to Eniwetok the night of 11-12 May, leaving the BAIROKO at Bikini for weather observations.

The Eninman airstrip was covered with debris, but was cleared and regraded 150 ft wide full length by 9 May. However, C-47 shuttle flights were not resumed (24) presumably because of inadequate safety facilities.

4. The [redacted] device, the sixth and final event of the CASTLE series, was satisfactorily detonated on a barge moored in the MIKE crater at Eniwetok on Friday, 14 May 54. Plans had been made for the evacuation of Eniwetok Atoll if necessary, but conditions subsequent to the detonation did not warrant such action. The [redacted] muster disclosed 393 persons at Eniwetok, none at Bikini. In compliance with a CTG 7.1 requirement, all persons who had received a dosage of 6 or more were evacuated from the forward area or aboard ship prior to the detonation to avoid possible additional exposure from [redacted] fall-out. This detonation occurred during conditions of rain and low, solid clouds, and visible results other than flash, could not be seen by ground observers.

C. New Projects

1. In a change (25) to the basic list, the following three new projects were officially added to the test program:

a. Project 3.4 "Neutralization of a Planted Sea Mine Field", sponsored by Bureau of Ordnance, USN, under Project Officer James Murphy, USN. This project involved the placing and recovery of several mines in the Bikini lagoon during the [redacted] event.

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(24) JF-8388, TWX to Hooper from Kerwin, 10 May OUO

(25) JF-8137, Subj: Outline of Scientific Programs-Operation CASTLE(change No. 2 to J-21366, 10 Nov 53) 1 May 54 ~~SECRET~~ RD

Significant Beta a. amma Radiation Due to Fall-O. rom High Yield Weapons", sponsored by AFSWP and the Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, under Project Officer E. P. Cronkite, Cdr USN. This was a study of the various results of accidental [redacted] fall-out on the residents of Rongerik and Rongelapatolls.

c. Project 6.1 "Test of Interim IBDA Procedures for High Yield Weapons" sponsored by The Stragetic Air Command, USAF, under Project Officer Rockly Triantafellu, Lt Col USAF. Radar indications of the detonation were used as a basic for an estimate of probable damage capabilities.

D. Radiological Safety

Precautionary functions proceeded as described in the earlier installment of this report, using the barge and other control points at Bikini, with additional monitors borrowed from Task Group 7.2 as maximum dosages were reached. Rad-Safe surveys were made a few hours after each detonation, and daily thereafter, and charts displaying latest readings on each island were maintained at several places. The CTU-7 prepared reports (26)(27)(28) from record readings in areas subjected to contamination. Reports were compiled from exposure records and the CTG 7.1 was informed when personnel reached allowable maximums with a recommendation for evacuation when appropriate. In one such report, 50 people having doses of 3.5r or more were listed. (29) In another, 6 E&N personnel were recommended for removal from Eniwetok [redacted] DELETED (30) [redacted] to avoid possibility of additional exposure.

(26) JF-7807, Subj: Shot Rad-Safe Survey Summaries, 23 Apr 54, CONF, Lists contamination of Bikini Islands and Lagoon in m/r after BRAVO, ROMEO, KOON.

(27) JF-8249, Subj: Preliminary Technical Report, [redacted] 5 May 54 SECRET RD

(28) JF-8250, Subj: Preliminary Technical Report, [redacted] 5 May 54 SECRET RD

(29) Jf-8370, Subj: Report of TG 7.1 Personnel Exposures Exceeding 3.5r as of 2400 8 May 54 (Pers remaining at PRG) 9 May 54, CJO

(30) JF-8443, Subj: Consideration of High Exposures Personnel, 11 May 54

[redacted]

In addition, evacuation of all personnel having doses of 6r or more were recommended.

E. Delays

1. The schedule of detonations varied in several instances from the original plan, because of experience gained in the first event. Every effort was made to detonate when high altitude winds were favorable, with surface conditions holding a lesser degree of importance. The result was that several events were delayed from four to twenty-six days beyond their date of readiness. The detonation of [redacted] occurred in conditions of rain and low 10/10 cloud which largely eliminated surface observation. The following schedule sets forth delays:

Sequence	Device	Site	Ready	Fired
1.		Bikini	1 Mar	1 Mar
2.		Bikini	13 Mar	27 Mar
3.	DELETED	Bikini	2 Apr	7 Apr
4.		Bikini	16 Apr	26 Apr
5.		Bikini	5 May	5 May
6.		Eniwetok	18 Apr	14 May

([redacted] was substituted for [redacted] and [redacted] was cancelled)

2. As the vagaries of high altitude weather, especially winds, became apparent and postponements and delays resulted, changes were made in operational methods. Postponements were announced as late as one hour before zero time; and readiness, as in the case of [redacted] was maintained on an eight hour basis.(31) That is, the decision to detonate might be made as late as eight hours prior to shot time and a 12 and 18 hours capability was maintained.(32) These close limits imposed considerable strain on some units, but they did permit utilization of favorable weather on short notice. In consideration of forseeable delays, a conference was held(33) prior to [redacted] to review the probabilities

(31) JF-8461, TWX to DWET from Gilbert, 11 May 54
(32) Science 3455, TWX, to Bradbury from Curry, 12 May 54
(33) J-3/206 Daily Diary, also JF-7568, Subj: Rev of Weather Criteria to Reduce delays.

12

[redacted]

points were discuss :

a. Delay could be minimized by revising weather criteria, thereby accepting the possibility of a significant fall-out on Eniwetok;

b. Since Parry and Eniwetok Islands now had a population of approximately 4800, plus essential facilities, the logistical problem of an evacuation would be very great. Various alternates were discussed, but no conclusions were reached, other than that the shot should not be fired if predictions indicated any real risk of significant fall-out on Eniwetok.

F. Revised Estimates

1. Several reports compiled during this period reflected revised estimates of yields, in the light of [redacted] results and other post-shot data.

13

[redacted]

time difference, and bh [redacted]meter data. Stop watch data [redacted] not considered reliable, fireball films and telephone system produced no usable results, and all available data did not support an estimate with the desired degree of accuracy. Preliminary reports, supplemented by later reports using later data and revised values, and generally concluding in estimates of yield greater than those originally derived, were made for the [redacted] (36) (37)(38)(39) (40)(41)(42)

G. Accidents

1. During the CASTLE program one fatality within Task Group 7.1 occurred when Mr. Robert D. England, a civilian employee of the University of California, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, died as result of an accident while working with electronic equipment. In an effort to repair an oscilloscope in a trailer at Bikini Atoll on 17 Feb 54, he was accidentally subjected to a charge of electricity (110 V) which was instantly fatal. A complete investigation was made at the site by a board of officers and civilians (43) and findings were reported to CTG 7.1. (44)

2. It is of interest to note that insofar as is known, only seven other incidents of operational emergency nature occurred during the operation. In only one of these did injuries occur, and none directly affected operations or personnel of TG 7.1. These incidents are contained in reports of appropriate Task Groups and are in brief as follows:

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(34) JF-8305, Subj: A very Preliminary Report on the Results of the [redacted] Shot, 14 May 54, SECRET RD

(35) JF-7758, Subj: [redacted] Yield, Summary of Present Data, 22 Apr 54, SECRET RD

(36) JF-7810, Subj: Preliminary Report of Results of [redacted] Shot, 27 Apr 54, SECRET RD

(37) JF-8135, Subj: Revised Hydrodynamic Yield, [redacted] 1 May 54, SECRET RD

(38) JF-8136, Subj: Revised Hydrodynamic Yield, [redacted] 1 May 54, SECRET RD

(39) JF-8022, Subj: Preliminary Report of [redacted] Shot, 3 May 54, SECRET RD

(40) JF-7953, Subj: Preliminary [redacted] Yield as of 26 Apr 54, 27 Apr 54 SECRET RD

(41) JF-8164, Subj: [redacted] Yield, Summary of Preliminary Data, 2 May 54 SECRET RD

(42) JF-8380, Subj: [redacted] Hydrodynamic Yield by analytical Solution 8 May 54, SECRET RD

(43) SO PPG-4, 19 Feb 54, Hq TG 7.1, Appointing Board of Inquiry.

(44) Hq, TG 7.1, APO 187 (HOW), Subj: Report of Investigation of Board of Officers and Civilians, 18 Feb 54

14

[redacted]

a. On 12 April a helicopter made an emergency landing on the reef at the west end of Parry Island, and burned, with total loss of aircraft and minor injury to passengers.

b. On 4 May an LCVP from USS LEO swamped in Eniwetok lagoon. After a search by boats and aircraft, its three personnel were found floating in the lagoon at about 2350 hours.

c. On 3 May an M boat took a DUKW and 13 persons to an Eniwetok Island for a security sweep. Later, the DUKW exhausted its fuel and the people were picked up by helicopter. The M boat had trouble with jammed ramp, and attempted to return to Eniwetok in reverse. After search by boats and aircraft, the M boat was found near Eniwetok at 2340.

d. At Bikini, one helicopter made an emergency landing, effected minor repairs, and resumed the flight.

e. One C-47 shuttle flight carrying passengers to Bikini had one engine fail shortly after takeoff from Eniwetok, returned and landed safely.

f. Approximately three hours after the [redacted] detonation, two F-84 samplers were forced down and landed successfully on the Eninman strip at Bikini, which fortunately had less than the expected amount of contamination and debris. After minor repairs and clearing of the airstrip, they took off successfully two days later.

g. About two hours after [redacted] two F-84s were forced to land on Eniwetok during extremely unfavorable weather. In heavy rain, visibility about one quarter mile and ceiling two hundred feet. Successful landings were made with minor damage to one aircraft.

15

[redacted]

H. Logistics

1. The roll-up at Bikini was completed by 12 May, and equipment at Eniwetok was prepared for return to the ZI.(45)(46)(47)(48) Various plans were made to cover movement of property back to home stations.(49) At a conference it was determined that four cargo ships would stop at Eniwetok to load CASTLE material for the ZI. As individual projects concluded their work, J-4 coordinated and assisted in preparing their equipment for return shipment.(50)(51)(52)

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(45) JF-8036, Subj: TU-4 and TU-14 Material to be Returned to ZI on USS CURTISS, 29 Apr 54, SECRET RD

(46) JF-8349, Subj: Loading List of TU-4 and TU-14 for USS CURTISS, SECRET RD

(47) JF-7695, Subj: Roll-Up Requirements, Rongerik Atoll, CONF, 21 Apr 54

(48) JF-7989, Subj: Communication Equipment Roll-Up (describes desposition of radios on atolls and ships). OUO 29 Apr 54

(49) JF-8176, Memo for record, Transportation Conference at J-4 schedules for four ships. 1 May 54

(50) JF-8086, Subj: Roll-Up of TU-9, 30 Apr 54, OUO

(51) JF-8355, Subj: Roll-Up of Office Equipment and Supplies, uncl, 8 May 54

(52) JF-8465, Subj: Return of Records to Los Alamos, OUO, 12 May 54

2. A major item of deactivation was the mothballing of the TU-2 cryogenics plant and associated equipment. Because of developments in the test program which removed the requirement for the activity, the plant was shut down, and the decision was made to condition it for storage "as is" rather than dismantle the equipment.(53)

III Administrative

A. General

Administrative work continued as usual with principal activity being in the Headquarters Commandants Office, where personnel were processed for the return to the Z.I. Through the month of May, planned movements from Eniwetok(54) totalled 564 via air and 10 via water. On 1 May a new list of people authorized to release TG 7.1 messages within the Eniwetok-Bikini areas was issued.(55) Most of the 7.1 filed record material was shipped from the PPG via SAM flight(56) on 16 May 54. These flights carried 25 TG 7.1 personnel and 19 boxes of office records from J-1, J-3, J-6, TU-4, and TU-7. The TG 7.1 mail room concluded its functions on 19 May 54.

B. Decorations and Awards

In order to give recognition to participants in the overseas test program who contributed in an outstanding manner to its success, recommendations for 266 awards and decorations were prepared and letters and certificates were distributed as listed below in accordance with a JTF SEVEN directive:(57)

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(53) JF-7747, Subj: Mothballing of Equipment Now in Progress, CONF, 19 Apr 54

(54) JF-7899, and JF-7913, Subj: Planned Personnel Movement, 26 Apr 54 (Ref RCS 7-MD-E6)

(55) JF-8148, Subj: Release of TG 7.1 Messages within Eniwetok-Bikini Area, 1 May 54

(56) JF-8240, Subj: Return of Records to Los Alamos, 5 May 54 (CUO)(SAM N plns 2)

(57) JTF 7 SOP 30-1, 24 Sep 53, Personnel Decorations and Awards

17

[redacted]

DA Certificate of Appreciation	6
Legion of Merit	2
Air Medal	12
Commendation Ribbon	20
Letters of Commendation:	
Signed by Maj. Gen. Clarkson	26
Signed by Dr. Ogle	24
Letters of Appreciation:	
Signed by Maj. Gen. Clarkson	4
Signed by Dr. Ogle	116
Certificates of Achievement	59

C. Security

1. Activities during the latter part of the program consisted of the usual investigation of security violations,(58) completion of security examinations and certificates, providing authorizations to carry classified matter away from the PPG(59) and handling of a few cases of contraband.

2. Access lists for shot stations were prepared and presented to CTG 7.5 for action.(60)(61) In compliance with a JTF request(62) a roster of all TG 7.1 personnel participating overseas was prepared, showing organization and clearance status. This roster contains 1431 names.

3. It may be of interest to note the processing time for a group of 73 applications for Q Clearances. Of this group, 8 were withdrawn before completion, and 65 granted. One reinstatement was made in 17 days, two Q Emergency clearances were granted in 48 and 70 days respectively. 62 Q Clearances were granted in the following times:

Less than 30 days	1	120 to 149 days	6
30 to 59 days	23	150 to 179 days	2
60 to 89 days	16	182 days	1
90 to 119 days	12	225 days	1

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(58) JF-7942, Subj: Improper Security Discipline, 26 Apr 54, OUO, and others

(59) JF-7710, Subj: Authorization to Hand Carry Classified Material, 20 Apr, OUO Also JF-8376, and others

(60) JF-7496, Subj: Access List for Sta 10 (J-3/144 Daily Diary)

(61) JF-7932, Subj: Access List for Sta 40, 26 Apr 54, OUO

(62) J-2/201.3, Subj: Roster of Q-cleared personnel, 12 Mar 54, CONF

D. Commander's Report

Instructions for preparation of the Commander's Report were issued on 21 April 54.(63) This report was designed to contain brief but complete reports of all CASTLE operations, arranged in the following manner;

Chapter I - Objectives, Devices, and Weapons
1.1 LASL (T Div and TU-4)
1.2 UCRL (Gibbons and Livermore)
Chapter 2 - Summary of Experimental Programs
Chapter 3 - General Activities of Task Group 7.1 (section 3.1 thru 3.18)
Chapter 4 - Summary of Task Unit Activities (sections 4.1 thru 4.12) Because of its detailed coverage, the Commander's Report is an excellent source of historical material. It is recommended as a reference for scientific and operational information and important conclusions and recommendations which, to avoid duplication, have not been furnished in TG 7.1 Historical Report.

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(63) JF-7711, Subj: Outline of the CASTLE Report of the Commander, Task Group 7.1, 21 Apr 54, [redacted]

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D. Statistics

1. Organization Chart, TG 7.1, Showing Approx Unit Strengths at PPG