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DATE: MAR 29 1957

FROM : *Joe B. Sanders*
Joe B. Sanders, Assistant Director, Test Division
Albuquerque Operations Office, AEC, Albuquerque

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF CONFERENCE - MARCH 21, 1957 - ALOC
TAONGI WEATHER OBSERVATION STATION

SYMBOL: ETP:EW-3792 *(u)*
3/28

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Enclosure:
Minutes of subj conference

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEWER DATE: <i>3/12/57</i>	1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER)
AUTHORITY: <i>105 USC 552</i>	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <i>Bob Smith</i>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEWER DATE: <i>3/15/57</i>	3. CONTAINS NO DOC CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: <i>105 USC 552</i>	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: <i>Bob Smith</i>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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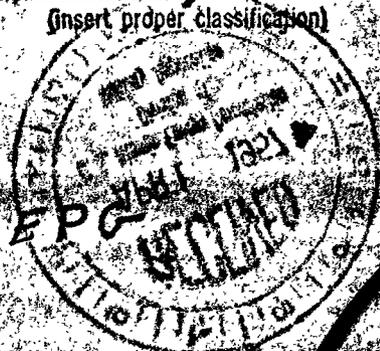
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MINUTES OF CONFERENCE

ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE

MARCH 21, 1957 (u)

This document consists

of 4 pages. No. 1
of 15 copies. Series A

TAONGI WEATHER OBSERVATION STATION

- Attendance: JTF-SEVEN - Colonel Donnell Massey
 Lt Colonel Walter A. Gray
 Lt Colonel Ferd J. Curtis
- IASL - Gaelen L. Felt
 Duncan Curry, Jr.
- UCRL - Walter D. Gibbins
 A. Vay Shelton
- H&N - Sam Howell
 R. R. Alvy
- Test Div - Joe B. Sanders
 ALOO Mackenzie Nobles
 Ernest Wynkoop

HQDP010048075

It was stated that a Staff Paper is under preparation at DMA to go to the Commission next week, covering proposal for development of Taongi as a third test site. The feeling is that it is very probable that the Commission will approve Taongi; however, unless approval is received very soon time will not permit its use for Hardtack.

The joint proposal of JTF-SEVEN meteorological representatives and UCRL for establishment of a temporary weather observation station at Taongi is considered an independent action. The purpose is to fill in on the extrapolated data made in the JTF-SEVEN meteorological study. The period of coverage required is May through August 1957, which period will compare with the period of coverage for Hardtack 1958.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEWER-DATE <u>2/19/77</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
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Some discussion of ship vs. shore weather observation led to indefinite conclusions since no one was prepared to compare costs of a ship station for this same period. However, a rough estimate for establishment of a weather station to accommodate 12 to 15 AWS people, plus some space for survey people of H&N, would be approximately \$285,000. This must be weighed against the advantages to be accrued from the additional weather data. It was decided that only LSD ship support would be suitable for beachhead and backup support until the weather camp could be operated with a probable requirement of service from LSD for a total of 40 days in the EPG area. The site of the weather station would appear to be best located at an apparently good beaching location on Pokaak^{KU} Island.

It was further determined that the original plan for the Taongi station as prepared for Redwing could not be materially scaled down, but would serve as a working basis. Further, the original estimate seems realistic except for the additional cost for some seadrome development and beachhead establishment. Material and equipment could be diverted from presently available supplies at Eniwetok but would have to be replaced to prevent interference with the balance of the program at Eniwetok and Bikini. Buildings would be prefabricated at Elmer to the greatest extent to reduce the on-site time required for erection.

Rawinsonde observations would be taken twice daily, although one daily would suffice according to Lt Col Curtis. There is a problem of demolition of old Japanese small ammunition and bombs prior to any general development work at Taongi, and it would be necessary to call on Army demolition teams to accomplish this work. Resupply would probably have to be effected by Kwajalein aircraft, since the 4951st Test Group (N) is not presently equipped with SA-16 aircraft. Additional resupply might be effected by diverting the Bikini shuttle LST at about three week intervals. It is realized that great difficulty exists in the assignment of a LSD for this mission, and particularly since the requirement would tie it up for a period of 35 to 40 days in the EPG area.

Dr. Felt interposed a serious question as to the validity of information obtained from a one-point station only, and submitted that possibly additional stations approximately 200 miles to SW and SE would be necessary to get any pattern of value. It was suggested that possibly a station could be activated at Bikini at a minimum expense, and that the newly proposed Utirik station could be established incidentally with Taongi, at no additional construction cost, provided ship support was obtainable. This three-point proposal poses a problem of air weather service personnel availability; however, no additional operational cost should be realized by the air weather service by reassignment of personnel from other active locations. Lt Col Curtis stated that CDR Rex and

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CDR Palmer had expressed considerable confidence in the extrapolated data, and that it was his opinion that the three-point stations were unnecessary. In fact, the Taongi station appears only to be necessary for geographical location and probably would not change the hodograph pattern already established by the meteorological study made by CDR Rex. This statement caused considerable discussion since the original opinion of JTF Met people seemed to have encouraged rather strongly taking observations at Taongi during the period comparable to Hardtack observations. It had been on this basis that UCRL requested the station which led to this conference. It was therefore requested of Col Massey that JTF immediately bring about a re-evaluation by the weather people to determine the following:

1. The justification for any weather observation effort at all at Taongi.
2. Whether the establishment of a shore station in July would be sufficiently valuable to justify its cost. (The only feasible means that appears possible to shorten the time of establishment of a station, other than the assignment of a ship, would be an air lift by carrier ship and helicopter support. In this manner an austere type station might be established in May. It is not considered economically feasible or probable that such support could be obtained.)
3. The possibility of assignment of a ship (probably destroyer type) in the area in lieu of establishment of shore base station.
4. Reevaluation of the proposition for a three-point station in lieu of one-point.

Incidental to the conference, Col Massey made known the U. S. Coast Guard wants to establish a Loran station on Kapingamarangi using the same site as the existing weather station. Mr. Howell has received a request from the U. S. Coast Guard to furnish them asbuilt prints of the installation so that siting can be accomplished. This development would cause Kapingamarangi weather station to become a satellite of the Loran station since one messing and personnel service facility would exist. It is understood that no support or construction will be required of H&N if this conversion takes place.

Col Massey was requested to contact Lt Col Schnittke on his return to Washington to fill in DMA on the discussions of this conference.

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The conference was adjourned; some of the members going into other conferences covering other subjects.

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