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ORGANIZATION AND DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

PROJECT OILSTONE

1. General direction and control of the Project shall be exercised jointly by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chief of Staff, USAF, subject to guidance from higher authority and coordination with other departments of the Government as appropriate. They shall furnish policy guidance to lower echelons, ensure the conformity of operations under this project with national policy, and make recommendations to higher authority on matters transcending their own authority. Further, it shall be their joint responsibility to resolve differences that may arise at lower staff and operating levels.

2. The following are the organizational elements which shall be responsible for the conduct of the project:

a. There is in existence a Project Headquarters, headed by a CIA Project Director to which an Air Force Officer will be assigned to serve as Deputy Project Director. The Project Headquarters will establish operational units, stationed at bases overseas after the completion of training in the ZI. These operational units will be manned by USAF and CIA personnel in numbers, proportions and skills as agreed between the Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer.

b. All military personnel assigned for full-time duty to the project for duty under CIA direction on permanent status shall be carried on the rolls of a newly activated support squadron in accordance with current procedures. The Air Force Deputy to the CIA Project Director will command this administrative squadron.

c. There will be established an Air Force Project Staff headed by a Project Officer who will act in the name of the Chief of Staff, USAF. The Project Staff will include selected officers designated by certain of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff to act as points of contact within their several offices.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(S)

~~TOP SECRET~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

d. The Commander, SAC, will form a new subordinate headquarters to be manned by him from resources available to him through which he will participate in the project. He will also establish a support unit for each operational unit established by the Project Headquarters. Support units will be controlled by him through the commander of his subordinate headquarters and will perform support functions as required by the Project Headquarters and agreed by Commander, SAC, or the Chief of Staff, USAF.

3. The functions and responsibilities of these elements will be as follows:

a. The CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer shall have primary responsibility for the development and execution of all activities concerning the project within their own organizations; the resolution of differences that may arise at lower echelons; and the reporting of progress and the making of recommendations to their respective chiefs.

b. The Project Headquarters will be responsible for any continued research and development, operational planning, and the direction and control of operations in the final phase of the project when overflights are being launched from bases overseas.

c. The Air Force Project Staff shall be responsible for implementing plans approved by the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer and arranging for Air Force support of Project activities which can appropriately be furnished through staff channels or by commands other than SAC.

d. Commander, SAC, will be assigned primary responsibility for providing and coordinating Air Force support of the project, including training, through the subordinate headquarters to be formed by him. Requirements for certain types of personnel and equipment not under his control will be stated to Headquarters, USAF (the Air Force Project Officer) and will be met from other resources.

4. Activities under this project fall into three phases. These overlap one another in time but may be distinguished on the basis of the kinds of activities involved in each. The following are the specific authorities and responsibilities of the several organizational elements in the successive phases of the project.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(S)

2

~~TOP SECRET~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

a. The first phase, now well advanced, is that in which the major activities are research and development, procurement, the construction and activation of a test and training base, the testing of equipment, and operational planning. The Project Director shall have control of these activities including the planning and recruiting of personnel under his control. The Air Force will furnish necessary support which will be a matter for agreement between the Project Director and the Project Officer. Full and complete coordination of all Air Force elements during this phase is essential.

b. The second phase will be devoted to training, the shakedown of equipment, and deployment overseas. These activities will be carried on mainly at the test and training base. Commander, SAC, through his subordinate headquarters, will (1) direct and supervise the training of operational units, (2) provide and coordinate Air Force support of the project, and (3) arrange for the deployment of operational units overseas for the initiation of the final phase. In the light of these responsibilities Commander, SAC, will be kept fully informed of operational plans, through his subordinate headquarters. Phase II terminates with the decision that crews and equipment are operationally ready and in place at overseas bases. During Phase II the line of command on matters concerning the scale and character of training, Air Force support, and the mechanics of deployment shall be from the Chief of Staff, USAF, through the Commander, SAC, and his subordinate headquarters.

c. The third phase will be that of active operations from overseas bases. This phase follows the decision as to operational readiness. In this third phase, the final decision as to execution and timing of actual over-flight missions shall rest with the Project Director, subject to such guidance as he may receive from higher authority. The line of command shall be direct between operational units and the Project Director. Each operational unit will continue to be dependent upon its corresponding SAC support unit.

APPROVED FOR USAF:

N. F. Twining  
Aug. 3, 1955

APPROVED FOR CIA:

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August 4, 1955

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
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3

~~TOP SECRET~~

