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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE
PARIS, FRANCE

AG 1780 OT

18 March 1955

SUBJECT : Employment of Atomic Weapons in Maneuvers and Exercises

TO : Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe
Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Mediterranean
Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe
Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe

REFERENCES: (a) SACEUR ASP 1-54.
(b) SHAPE CEI 330K, "Instructions for Handling Special Weapons Traffic", 13 January 1953.
(c) Appendix 2 to Annex E, (SACEUR SOP 1), SACEUR ASP 1-54.
(d) AG 2333 OT, Training Directive No. 14, "Reports on Exercises and Maneuvers," 12 February 1954.
(e) SACEUR Atomic Policy, AG 6430.
(f) Annex O to EDP 1-55.
(g) Atomic Planning Guidance, SHAPE 613/54.
(h) Atomic Planning Guidance Supplement SHAPE/723/54.

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this letter is to outline for information and future guidance some policies and procedures which amplify the above references and which have been developed as a result of maneuvers and exercises conducted within Allied Command Europe.

2. GENERAL:

a. Current SACEUR atomic policy and SACEUR strike plans provide a general basis for the planning and coordination of atomic play in maneuvers and exercises.

b. Authority to use atomic weapons is retained by SACEUR. SACEUR may exercise this authority by requiring that a request for each strike be submitted as the need arises, or he may approve plans of subordinate commanders for the use of atomic weapons and delegate control to them. Exercise and maneuver play should test both these practices.

(1) For exercise purposes an agency representing SACEUR should be established either at SHAPE or within a suitable exercise control element to perform the role of SACEUR in acting upon requests for the use of atomic weapons. Actual location of this agency for a specific maneuver or exercise will depend upon the nature of the exercise and recommendation of the commander concerned.

(2) If an agency is established to represent SACEUR, or a major subordinate headquarters, it should operate as a distinct entity and function separately from the headquarters being exercised and the maneuver forces.

3. PLANNING:

a. The directing headquarters, with prior approval of SHAPE, specifies the number of atomic projectiles or atomic bombs available to each of the opposing forces. SHAPE approval of these planning numbers should be requested well in advance of detailed planning. This request should include a statement of the nature and purpose of the exercise, major forces participating and an outline plan of the proposed atomic play in sufficient detail to justify the planning numbers recommended. The outline plan should indicate any major assumptions upon which it is based. Guidance for assignment of planning numbers is contained in current SHAPE atomic policy.

b. Plans for atomic play in maneuvers and exercises, based on previously approved planning numbers (paragraph 3a, above) will be submitted by Commanders-in-Chief to SHAPE for coordination and approval.

(1) For exercise purposes, procedure in submitting plans to SACEUR for approval should follow as closely as possible that which is established for the submission of actual operations plans.

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(2) Plans should follow current SACEUR atomic policy and atomic planning guidance. Provision should be made for the employment of appropriate procedures in SACEUR SOP 1.

(3) For coordination plans must be submitted to SHAPE at least sixty days prior to the maneuver or exercise. For large scale exercises, plans may be submitted with the detailed brief (SH OT-15, as provided for in SHAPE Training Directive Number 14).

(4) With reference to paragraph 2(1), above, recommendation for SHAPE participation or for the establishment of SACEUR representation within the exercise control element should be submitted with the plan so that the essential advance arrangements can be made.

(5) Further guidance on the provisions and content of plans to be submitted is at Enclosure 1.

c. Special attention should be given to the signal arrangements for the rapid handling of requests as prescribed in SHAPE CEI 33CK.

4. REPORTING: The preliminary and final reports of large-scale exercises should include an evaluation of the atomic play.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION: SHAPE Training Directive Number 14, reference (d), above, requires that a brief be submitted for each large-scale exercise at least sixty days prior to the exercise and in no case less than forty days prior to any public release concerning the exercise. An important part of this brief is the proposed press release. Policy concerning the development of public information releases on atomic play in maneuvers and exercises, whether large or small in scale, will be issued later.

6. Letter, AG 1780 OT, "Employment of Atomic Weapons in Maneuvers," dated 7 May 1953, is rescinded.

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE:



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1 Encl:
Guidance for Preparation of Plans.

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| COMNAVCENT | 1 | 1 |
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| SACEUR | 1 | - |
| DSACEUR | 1 | - |
| Air Dep | 1 | 1 |
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GUIDANCE FOR PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR ATOMIC PLAY

1. Basically the guidance for preparation of plans for atomic play in maneuvers and exercises will be found in current SHAPE documents such as SACEUR's Atomic Policy, Atomic Planning Guidance and SACEUR's Atomic Strike Plan. Consequently, the guidance herein constitutes only an application of established policy to the exercise problem. Where elaboration is needed, reference should be made to appropriate current policies and directives.

2. The following should be especially noted in submitting atomic play plans to SHAPE for approval:

a. Exercise plans to be developed should be prepared for the joint level to which planning numbers were assigned (Army-TAF, Army Group-ATAF, or similar level), consolidated into an overall plan (such as a regional plan or other appropriate level) and submitted to SHAPE for approval. SACEUR bases approval of atomic play on plans developed at the level to which planning numbers were assigned.

b. In submitting plans to SHAPE for approval, a recommendation should be included as to the command level at which control authority for atomic weapons will be placed.

c. During the exercise, authority to execute the various sections of the overall plan (such as Army-TAF sections of a regional plan) is to be requested from SHAPE using procedure outlined in SOP 1. Unless SHAPE actively participates in the exercise, appropriate SACEUR representation must be established. (See paragraph 2b, basic).

d. After the execution of approved plans has begun, if subsequent operations necessitate a major alteration of these plans and reconsideration of objectives, the plans required for such contingencies should be submitted to SHAPE for approval (as contemplated in current SHAPE policy).

e. Emergency targets (i.e., not provided for in previously approved plans) are to be forwarded to SHAPE for approval in accordance with procedures established by SOP 1.

Enclosure 1

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