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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Washington 25, D.C. 11 December 1953

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J-3/7293

SUBJECT: Safety Measures During Operational Phase of CASTLE

US DOE ARCHIVES	
326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION	
RG	COMMISSION
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Folder	Castle Radiological Safety

TO: Commander in Chief, Pacific  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

1. References:

a. CJTF 132 Secret letter, subject: "Safety Measures During Operational Phase of IVY", dated 14 July 1952.

b. CJTF SEVEN Secret letter, subject: "Schedule of Messages Concerning Detonation During CASTLE", dated 3 December 1953.

2. It is anticipated that the shot hazards introduced into the Pacific Area during Operation CASTLE will, with one exception, closely parallel those encountered on the IVY-MIKE shot. The exception is expected to occur, due to reduced yield, on the ECHO shot at Eniwetok Atoll. Accordingly, the general information presented in above reference on IVY safety measures, and restated below with pertinent modifications, is considered applicable to Operation CASTLE.

a. With respect to the probability of fall-out hazards, it is concluded that the existence of such at UJELANG is a remote possibility. Similar hazards at other islands in the vicinity of shot sites are considered very remote. The impact of fall-out on populated islands will be one of the major factors in the task force commander's decision to shoot, and will be considered in its relation to forecast winds and other meteorological conditions. In the event that cogent and compelling post-shot reasons arise requiring temporary evacuation of natives, task force security ships will be made available to CINCPAC for this purpose. Personnel with Trust Territory administration and interpretation experience would be required from your command to supervise this effort.

b. Although various uncertainties exist in predetermining the trajectory of an atomic cloud with resultant radioactive fall-out, all possible measures to minimize health hazards will be taken by this command. CJTF SEVEN will use weather as a major safety measure, detonating the shots at a time when wind conditions present

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C. Williams 6/1/85  
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hazards to inhabited islands and air and surface routes of the Pacific. During the pre-shot and post-shot phases, CJTF SEVEN will advise CINCPAC of any unforeseen hazards, which may develop during the operations, and will recommend appropriate precautions by dispatch of advisory messages as indicated in reference lb.

c. Air and surface routes through Wake and the Marshall Islands may be effected for short periods of time. Pertinent information supporting action relative to closing and opening such routes will be included in advisories to your headquarters (reference lb).

d. Reconnaissance flights by security aircraft of TG 7.3 to clear itinerant shipping from the predicted cloud passage area up to 600 miles on shot minus 1 to 2 days will be conducted in the significant fall-out quadrant.

3. In the interest of minimizing hazards in areas and units other than those assigned to JTF SEVEN, it is recommended that the following measures, similar to those implemented by CINCPACFLT for Operation IVY, again be taken with facilities at your disposal:

a. Airborne survey of significant Pacific Islands, supplemented by ground checks as practicable, in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission.

b. Film badge survey of Wake and Johnston Islands (extended to include significant native populated atolls).

c. Advance coordination with the CAA Administrator on possible interference with air routes through Wake and the Marshall Islands for specified periods of time, and arrangements for closing or modifying these routes on short notice in the event such action becomes essential. It is also anticipated that, for operational reasons, both Eniwetok and Bikini air bases will be closed for short periods before and after each detonation. Appropriate advisories to your headquarters will include information supporting these actions.

d. Advance coordination for Headquarters, USAF (AFOAT-1) support of cloud tracking by supplying radiological data from various Pacific flights. By separate communication this support has been requested for CINCPACFLT.

4. CINCPACFLT will be informed by separate communication of details pertinent to the above information.

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P. W. CLARKSON  
Major General, U. S.  
Commander

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