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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFCCS

19 Sep 60

SUBJECT: (U) Concept for the B-70 Weapon System

TO: Chief of Staff, USAF

1. On 14 September the Air Force Council considered a presentation on the above subject and agreed that:

a. The primary role of the B-70 is:

(1) To conduct initial strikes with high yield weapons against priority military targets of both known and uncertain locations, while concurrently observing and reporting the progress of the aerospace battle.

(2) To provide a residual capability which can seek out and destroy any remaining enemy capability and convince the enemy that further resistance is futile.

b. While listed in order of priority, 1 and 2 above are very nearly co-equal and constitute an overwhelming requirement for the B-70 weapon system.

c. The initial strike with the B-70 should be made with the maximum force.

(1) Under normal operations in which tactical warning is assured the initial strike aircraft should be employed with:

(a) A maximum ground alert.

(b) Dispersal to eliminate runway saturation.

(c) No hardening of the strike forces.

(d) The training sorties flown with a strike capability.

(2) Operating the initial strike force under a situation of uncertain warning would involve a combination of some airborne alert, further dispersal, and an increased number of aircraft in a hardened residual facility.

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d. The residual force is given security through:

- (1) A maximum dispersal of landing sites and supporting facilities.
- (2) The emergency launch of aircraft undergoing maintenance outside an unhardened maintenance facility.
- (3) Hardening of aircraft and support facilities in centralized maintenance.

e. The objectives of this conceptual effort are to develop a method of employment which insures the B-70 will be effectively integrated into the overall strategic offensive force, and which will optimize the inherent and particular capabilities of the B-70 weapon system. Those objectives best can be accomplished by providing flexibility and security to the force.

f. Thus employed, the B-70 will be the world's most effective weapon system and the greatest force for deterrence. It will be the least vulnerable, most flexible, most versatile weapon system, and have the quickest response with the greatest fire power, accuracy and reliability.

g. Further study is required to determine:

- (1) Cost effectiveness.
- (2) Cost and feasibility of hardening.
- (3) Maintenance facilities required.
- (4) Command and Support Organization.
- (5) Post strike recovery techniques.
- (6) Alternative roles including strike/reconnaissance and show of force.
- (7) Optimum means for insuring survival of residual force.
- (8) Personnel requirements, including extra pay for crews, sortie/crew/month ratio and use of simulators.

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h. The concept, as it is developed, will be coordinated with CinCSAC.

i. Priority consideration will be given by the Air Staff to developing the overall B-70 concept. The Council will consider, on the same basis, component studies as they are developed.

CURTIS E. LeMAY
General, U. S. Air Force
Chairman, Air Force Council

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THOMAS D. WHITE
Chief of Staff

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