

~~TOP SECRET~~

October 25, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: SAC Concentration in U. S. and Reaction Time (as of above date)

1. Current Composition of SAC

a. Heavy bombers

4 wings - fully equipped (45 aircraft each) of B-52 class
1 wing - in process of equipping (34 aircraft) of B-52 class
1 wing - converting to B-52 class *
5 wings - (30 aircraft each) of B-36 class
11 wings

b. Medium bombers

28 wings (45 aircraft each) of B-47 class

39 wings (1650 aircraft) TOTAL



2. Current SAC Bases in U. S.

a. Heavy bomber

11 operational
16 under construction (funded in FY's 1956-58; scheduled progressively for completion not later than June 30, 1960)
6 additional desired by AF for optimum

b. Medium bomber

18 operational

29 bases operational TOTAL

* Will begin receiving 15 B-52s a month in November.

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 03-08-2001 BY 34 (b)

MR 88-294 #7

DJH 1/7/91

(copy also filed in SAC file)
~~TOP SECRET~~

3. Current Basing of SAC in U. S. (as of October 22)

a. At 5 SAC bases there are 214 of the B-52 class, located in varying numbers (not over 45 aircraft at one base). Of these 214, 119 (assigned in current war plan) are located at these 4 SAC bases:

- Castle (California)
- Westover (Massachusetts)
- Loring (Maine)
- Fairchild (Washington)



As additional B-52s are received and crews attain combat readiness, they will be entered in the war plan.

b. The B-36 wings are principally located at 7 SAC bases, other than the 4 mentioned above.

c. The 28 wings (1260 aircraft) of the B-47 class are located (except for aircraft engaged in overseas maneuvers) at 18 SAC bases, other than the 11 mentioned above.

4. Current SAC Reaction Time on a Surprise Basis.

Within 30 minutes (overseas) to two hours (in the U.S.A.), the following aircraft could be got in the air, loaded with their weapons:

- 8 B-52 class - Heavy Bomber
- 9 B-36 class - Heavy Bomber
- 117 B-47 class - Medium Bomber
- 134 TOTAL

The number which can be got in the air under surprise conditions -- within the times specified -- is limited by (a) trained personnel for constant alert and (b) base facilities.

5. Turnover of Trained Enlisted AF Personnel.

During the period January - August, 1957, the re-enlistment rate in SAC for first-termers was:

Radio and communications	25.2%
Armaments and electronics	34.5%
Aircraft maintenance	22.1%

During the same period, the re-enlistment rate for jet-engine mechanics (all-termers combined) was 24.7%.