

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 13-520

3 JANUARY 2013



Nuclear, Space, Missile, Command and Control

AIRCRAFT NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing website at www.e-publishing.af.mil for downloading or ordering.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: AF/A10-O

Certified by: AF/A3O
(Major General James J. Jones)

Pages: 27

This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 13-5, *Air Force Nuclear Enterprise* and establishes guidance, and responsibilities to organize, train, and equip forces to execute nuclear operations. This instruction applies to all Air Force active duty, Air National Guard (ANG), Reserve, civilian personnel, and contractors tasked with the responsibility to train, operate, maintain, control, safeguard, inspect, manage, account for or perform aircraft nuclear operations tasks.

Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) maintained in the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afirms/afirms/afirms/rims.cfm>. Restrictions expressed in this instruction can be made more, but not less, restrictive by supplement. This instruction supports the Roadmap efforts presented in “Reinvigorating the Nuclear Enterprise” as mandated by Department of Defense (DoD) and other national policy directives. Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, shall be used to recommend changes to this publication. Route AF Form 847 from the field through the MAJCOM to make changes to this instruction.

Note: This AFI provides broad guidance and cannot address every circumstance. Refer to applicable MAJCOM instructions for additional responsibilities.

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Chapter 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Purpose. This AFI provides implementation guidance, and establishes responsibilities to safely, securely, and effectively conduct aircraft nuclear operations. In carrying out aircraft nuclear operations, the Air Force:

1.1.1. Provides a credible operational nuclear capability by promoting a professional culture of excellence in accountability, rigorous self assessment, and uncompromising standards.

1.1.2. Organizes, trains, and equips bomber, fighter, reconnaissance, mobility, and air refueling forces for nuclear combat operations to support combatant command (COCOM) missions and requirements, to include exercise participation in accordance with the DoD Exercise Program.

1.1.3. Conforms to COCOM unique organizational structures when under functional command to facilitate alert posture and centralized nuclear command and control (C2). This force structure is explained in figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1. Presentation of Air Force Nuclear Forces Supporting USSTRATCOM (Generated)

1.1.4. **Mission.** The Air Force nuclear mission is to maintain, sustain, posture, deploy and employ nuclear weapons and Reconnaissance in Support of Nuclear Operations (RISNO) assets in a safe, secure, and effective manner that serves as a credible, recognized assurance to friends and allies, and deterrence to adversaries. Air Force nuclear operations are conducted in support of nuclear deterrence operations. These operations include the day-to-day training and exercises to prepare Air Force combat forces to conduct nuclear operations and execute nuclear strikes, when directed.

1.1.5. The nuclear enterprise supports strategic, operational, and tactical operations by providing flexible nuclear deterrence and assurance capabilities to Combatant Commanders, the Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States and our allies.

1.1.6. Nuclear enterprise support personnel ensure combat crews are provided equipment, materials and training to enhance readiness, facilitate planning, build war fighting capability, and execute assigned missions.

1.2. Nuclear Execution Authority. The President of the United States retains sole authority for the employment and termination of nuclear options.

1.3. Classification and Security Information. Refer to AFI 31-401, *Information Security Program Management* and AFI 31-407, *(S) Air Force Nuclear Weapons Security Classification Policy (U) for Classification and Security Information*.

1.4. Compliance. Commanders at all levels shall ensure compliance with:

1.4.1. This AFI and approved Major Command (MAJCOM) functional/activity-specific instructions.

1.4.2. Combatant Commander, Air Force and MAJCOM directives, Operations Plans (OPLANs), Support Plans (SPLANs), Operations Orders, procedures and special instructions (SPINS).

1.4.3. Policies, procedures, and responsibilities for the safety, security, and custody of Nuclear weapons through Protection Level One Nuclear (PL1N) Security. This includes Prime Nuclear Airlift Force (PNAF) missions, Nuclear Command and Control (NC2) facilities, Special Nuclear Material (SNM), Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS), and associated dual capable aircraft allocated to the Commander United States European Command (USECOM) and deployed in support of Allied Command Operations (ACO). Security policies and procedures are governed by DoD publication specific to, ACO Directive Number 80-6, DoD S-5210.41M *Security Policy for Protecting Nuclear Weapons*, AFMAN 31-108 *Nuclear Weapon Security Manual*, AFI 31-101 *Integrated Defense*, MAJCOM and localized unit supplements.

1.5. Key Words Explained.

1.5.1. "Shall" indicates a mandatory requirement.

1.5.2. "Should" indicates a preferred, but not mandatory, method of accomplishment.

1.5.3. "May" indicates an acceptable or suggested means of accomplishment.

1.5.4. "Note" indicates operating procedures, techniques, etc., which are considered essential to emphasize.

1.6. Additional Instructions. MAJCOMs shall augment this instruction with MAJCOM instructions and are the approving authority for MAJCOM and below-level instructions. MAJCOMs shall coordinate their instructions with AF/A10-O and AF/A7S before publication and forward one copy to AF/A10-O after publication.

1.7. Waiver Authority. AF/A10 in coordination with AF/A3O is the waiver authority for this instruction. MAJCOMs shall forward waiver requests to AF/A10, with a courtesy copy to AF/A10-O. AF/A10 shall coordinate waivers with AF/A3O. Waivers to MAJCOM instructions shall be handled by the MAJCOM generating the instruction.

1.8. Support to Joint/Combined Operations. Air Force nuclear operations support joint operations based on OPLAN requirements. Air Force nuclear capabilities provide flexible nuclear options to Combatant Commanders and underpin US National Security Strategy.

1.9. Change Recommendations. Submit suggested changes to this instruction on AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication* through MAJCOM channels or through the appropriate functional manager's chain of command.

Chapter 2

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. AF/A10 Responsibilities. As the Assistant Chief of Staff (ACS), Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, AF/A10 is the Headquarters Air Force staff oversight authority of aircraft nuclear operations policy, guidance, directives, and advocacy. AF/A10 shall:

- 2.1.1. Ensure standardization of aircraft nuclear policy, guidance, advocacy which impact nuclear operations.
- 2.1.2. Coordinate with Air Force Departmental Publishing Office (AFDPO) to ensure distribution of updated nuclear policy and guidance to the MAJCOMs.
- 2.1.3. Monitor and review MAJCOM nuclear support plans and programs to ensure COCOM requirements are achieved.
- 2.1.4. Coordinate with MAJCOMs to ensure nuclear operations support is available to accomplish operational commander's objectives.
- 2.1.5. Coordinate with MAJCOMs to ensure resources, training and personnel are available.
- 2.1.6. Oversee nuclear capabilities and skill sets contained within each MAJCOM.
- 2.1.7. Ensure Air Force units tasked to conduct nuclear operations plan and develop implementing instructions for day-to-day, crisis and wartime operations, including augmentation of joint forces.
- 2.1.8. Advocate integration of aircraft nuclear operations into joint force exercises.
- 2.1.9. Function as Air Force point of contact for NC2 policy and guidance.
- 2.1.10. Establish an active partnership with Combatant Commanders and SAF/CIO A6 for Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) systems, doctrine, procedures, personnel, equipment and facilities.
- 2.1.11. Conduct/host Air Force nuclear operations conference as required.
- 2.1.12. Set policy and provide guidance for the conduct and execution of the crew training program for nuclear operations.
- 2.1.13. Designate AF/A10-O as office of primary responsibility (OPR) for this instruction.
- 2.1.14. Monitor and review MAJCOM instructions, weapon systems and program instructions to ensure MAJCOM policies, guidance and instructions are adequate and consistent with this directive.
- 2.1.15. Participate in AF/A3O hosted training conferences as required to assist in appropriate commonality in lead command training programs.
- 2.1.16. In conjunction with AF/A3O, identify Formal Training Unit (FTU) shortfalls to AF/A3/5 and AF corporate structure.

2.2. MAJCOM Nuclear Operations Responsibilities. MAJCOM commanders with nuclear missions ensure safe, secure and effective nuclear operations including day-to-day responsibility for assigned nuclear forces. It is imperative that commanders at all levels promote a professional

culture of excellence, accountability, rigorous self-assessment, and uncompromising standards. To that end MAJCOMs with nuclear missions shall:

2.2.1. Determine responsibilities and roles of intermediate/subordinate headquarters organizations.

2.2.2. Manage resources and provide training to personnel in subordinate organizations for nuclear operations.

2.2.3. Develop and manage nuclear operations capabilities and skill sets to ensure effective application during deliberate planning, adaptive planning and contingency execution.

2.2.4. Support Wing Commander requests for a nuclear surety staff assistance visit (NSSAV) with subject matter, functional and technical expert visits and reviews.

2.2.5. Coordinate nuclear operations exercise activity and participation requirements IAW AFI 10-204, *Participation in Joint and National Exercises*.

2.2.5.1. Provide assistance to subordinate Numbered Air Forces (NAFs)/units in addressing exercise-related training, manpower, equipment and communication requirements.

2.2.5.2. Provide a nuclear operations focal point for participation in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) sponsored joint and combined exercises.

2.2.6. Advocate fielding of systems and related training, connectivity and maintenance. Establish and coordinate system requirements with and among subordinate and gained organizations. Ensure simultaneous availability of developed training and technical support for every fielded nuclear system and nuclear support system.

2.2.7. Ensure readiness reporting requirements for nuclear operations are appropriately covered in the Status of Resources and Training System (SORTS), the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Reporting Tool (ART), and the Defense Readiness Reporting System (DRRS).

2.2.8. Posture and code Unit Type Code (UTC) accounting for all nuclear operations authorizations. Review applicable MAJCOM ART reporting requirements to ensure accurate and timely reporting.

2.2.8.1. Coordinate development and validation of aircraft nuclear support operations and nuclear operations related UTCs.

2.2.8.2. Provide oversight of aircraft nuclear operations UTC management and if appropriate, inform the Air Staff Functional Manager of any UTC-related problems.

2.2.9. Represent the nuclear operations mission and actively participate in Realistic Training Review Boards and Weapons and Tactics Conferences. Manage nuclear operations tactics and training improvement proposals advocated to the MAJCOM through the above mentioned venues.

2.2.10. Provide a nuclear operations focal point for deliberate planning, review and evaluation of applicable annexes within Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and Higher Headquarters (HHQ) wartime OPLANs, policy and guidance.

2.2.11. Draft supplements to applicable AF instructions.

2.2.12. **(HQ AFGSC/ HQ ACC)** Establish an OPR to manage the Nuclear Weapon System Evaluation Program.

2.2.13. Establish an OPR to develop and implement the nuclear operations training programs outlined in the instruction.

2.2.14. **(Geographical MAJCOMs (i.e., USAFE, PACAF, etc.))** Develop theater indoctrination training for necessary personnel in their Area of Responsibility (AOR) to ensure personnel are trained for specific theater nuclear operations. As a minimum, this training shall include a thorough review of theater unique nuclear requirements and procedures, theater threat status and weapon systems, reporting instructions, connectivity requirements, theater-unique nuclear command and control requirements and procedures, host nation agreements and applicable OPLANs/CONPLANs.

2.3. Air Force Safety Center (AFSEC)/SEW. AFSEC/SEW is responsible for:

2.3.1. Overseeing and performing Air Force responsibilities IAW DoDD 3150.2, *DoD Nuclear Weapon System Safety Program*.

2.3.2. Oversee the incorporation of DoD Nuclear Weapon System Safety Program standards into Air Force guidance and operations.

2.3.3. Management of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Surety program IAW AFI 91-101, *Air Force Nuclear Weapons Surety Program*.

2.3.4. Chairing and management of the Nuclear Weapon System Safety Group IAW AFI 91-102, *Nuclear Weapon System Safety Studies, Operational Safety Reviews, and Safety Rules*.

2.3.5. Writing nuclear safety rules and 91-1xx series publications for Secretary of Defense approval.

2.3.6. Providing Nuclear Safety Design Certification for all Air Force nuclear systems IAW AFI 63-125, *Nuclear Certification Program*.

2.3.7. Directing implementation of the Tamper Detection Program IAW AFI 91-104, *Nuclear Surety Tamper Control And Detection Programs*, and Two-Person Concept rules IAW AFI 91-105, *Critical Components*.

2.3.8. Overseeing the Air Force Nuclear Mishap Prevention Program and direct reporting and investigation of nuclear mishaps IAW AFIs 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports* and Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 91-221, *Weapons Safety Investigations and Reports*.

2.4. Nuclear Deterrence Operations Core Function Lead Integrator (CFLI). AFGSC is designated the NDO CFLI and serves as the principal integrator for this assigned SCF. AFGSC shall:

2.4.1. Develop nuclear support plans, policies, and procedures to conduct and sustain aircraft nuclear operations.

2.4.1.1. Establish uniform implementing guidance and procedures across their portion of the Nuclear Enterprise required at the operational level to meet the MAJCOM Commander's objectives.

2.4.1.2. Publish guidance for standardized nuclear mission materials for operational use.

2.4.1.3. Develop a minimum list of aircraft nuclear operations documents and products for subordinate and gained units; assist in producing these documents and products.

2.4.2. Provide policy and guidance pertaining to the overall management of assigned individual mobilization augmentees (IMAs) and Air Reserve Component (ARC) units.

2.4.3. Manage/control planning, programming, distributing and execution of aircraft nuclear related resources.

2.4.4. Designate a nuclear operations functional manager to advocate for combat training range equipment and modernization requirements.

2.4.5. Provide nuclear operations support to Air Force research, development, test, sustainment and planning.

2.5. Lead MAJCOM or Agency. AFPD 10-9, *Lead Operating Command Weapon System Management*, establishes a lead command MAJCOM and user commands for each MDS. See also AFPD 10-21, *Air Mobility Lead Command Roles and Responsibilities*, for Mobility Air Forces (MAF) command responsibilities. Lead MAJCOMs shall:

2.5.1. Develop and manage, in coordination with user commands, the appropriate MAJCOM instruction 13-520 volume to standardize aircraft nuclear operations training requirements, regardless of mission designation and command of assignment. Unresolved differences between lead and user commands shall be elevated to AF/A10 for final resolution.

2.5.1.1. Attend MDS-specific training conferences as hosted by Lead MAJCOM IAW AFI 11-202v1 *Flying Operations, Aircrew Training*.

2.5.1.2. Develop and maintain standardized training materials to be used in qualification training.

2.5.1.3. Develop and maintain a Master Question File (MQF) for weapon systems, nuclear functions and activities for which they are designated lead MAJCOM. The MAJCOM MQF is the baseline. Units may augment the MQF with unit specific questions.

Chapter 3

BOMBER NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

3.1. Command Relationships. In accordance with the Global Force Management Implementation Guidance (GFMIG), in support of OPLAN requirements, US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) has COCOM of specified bomber forces. This chapter is applicable to all HQ AFGSC units tasked to support bomber nuclear operations, as well as Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) units/members under HQ AFGSC oversight participating in such operations.

3.2. Day-to-Day requirements.

3.2.1. Unit Responsibilities.

3.2.1.1. Be prepared to generate forces to hard alert IAW OPORD Global Citadel.

3.2.1.2. Advise HQ AFGSC of any issues that would affect the ability to accomplish their nuclear support mission.

3.2.1.3. Develop procedures to ensure Alert Force is able to support nuclear operations.

3.2.1.4. Ensure personnel are trained and capable of executing recovery and regeneration missions, as defined by HQ AFGSC, if applicable.

3.2.1.5. HQ AFGSC and HQ AFGSC-gained units shall report in IAW AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*, EAP-STRAT Vols 11 and 12, and SI 501-14.

3.2.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities.

3.2.2.1. HQ AFGSC shall monitor, assess, and report to USSTRATCOM on unit capability to implement OPLAN requirements.

3.2.2.2. HQ AFGSC shall be prepared to implement nuclear operations by developing appropriate policies and procedures.

3.2.2.3. HQ AFGSC shall be prepared to coordinate on USSTRATCOM policy and procedures.

3.2.2.4. HQ AFGSC shall establish procedures for survival of and regeneration of USSTRATCOM bomber forces IAW USSTRATCOM directives.

3.3. Mission Generation & Pre-launch Procedures

3.3.1. Strike mission generation orders shall generate the appropriate actions so the unit can conduct, or be ready to conduct, assigned missions.

3.3.2. Responsibilities. Aircrew and ground crews shall strictly observe the rules and procedures governing nuclear surety and Two Person Control (TPC). All personnel authorized entry into an exclusion area shall understand the locally prescribed duress code word or signal procedures. Codes shall be revealed only to persons having a "need to know".

3.3.3. Aircraft Generation. Units shall generate aircraft when notified and tasked by the proper authority. All Generation operations shall be IAW AFGSCI 13-520 *Bomber Nuclear Guidance*.

3.3.4. Units shall support and sustain the Alert Force. Units are responsible for providing security, maintenance, and logistical support to the Alert Force. Priority shall be given to nuclear capable bomber and nuclear support aircraft/equipment. Units shall advise USSTRATCOM via TF-204 of any issues that affect the Alert Force.

3.3.5. HQ AFGSC shall monitor and support the Alert Force. Priority shall be given to nuclear capable bomber and nuclear support aircraft/equipment.

3.3.6. Sole-Vouching Authority (SVA) Procedures. SVA authorization is required for entry into an exclusion area. Transfers of SVA shall be briefed in view of the Exclusion Area Entry Controller (EEC). The SVA shall always be the first to enter and the last to leave an established exclusion area.

3.3.7. Accountability. Refer to AFI 21-203, *Nuclear Accountability Procedures* for guidance with respect to nuclear weapons accounting, weapons custody, and reporting.

3.3.8. Maintenance on Nuclear Loaded Aircraft. Refer to loading technical orders T.O. 1B-2-16, T.O. 1B-52-16 and other 91-series AFIs for nuclear surety and maintenance guidance with respect to nuclear loaded aircraft.

3.4. Employment Procedures.

3.4.1. Restrictions. The mission aircrew shall comply with AFGSCI 13-520 and all other applicable restrictions while employing a nuclear weapon.

3.4.2. HQ AFGSC shall provide guidance for Abort, Termination, Weapon Retention and Jettison Procedures.

3.4.3. Unit Responsibilities. Upon direction, generate forces IAW applicable Operational Orders (OPORDs) and MAJCOM guidance. Units shall advise any deviations to USSTRATCOM via TF 204.

3.4.4. MAJCOM Responsibilities. HQ AFGSC shall monitor and support the generation of allocated assets.

3.5. Recovery and Regeneration.

3.5.1. Unit Responsibilities. To the maximum extent possible, units shall support recovery and regeneration of any DoD forces.

3.5.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. HQ AFGSC shall support recovery and regeneration of all DoD forces. MAJCOMs shall support recovery and regeneration sustainment missions.

3.6. Certification, Qualification, and Training Program. HQ AFGSC shall establish specific requirements needed for aircrew certification officials, crewmembers, and controllers. HQ AFGSC and HQ AFGSC-gained units are responsible for establishing a certification program to ensure all aircrew are capable of executing all mission sets.

3.7. Combat Mission Folder (CMF). HQ AFGSC shall define general instructions, security instructions, documentation control and standardization procedures, OPLAN mission preparation and responsibilities, reproduction of CMF materials, CMF validation and certification, time factors for preparation, assembly, validation and certification, control, issue and storage of CMFs, CMF change procedures, instructions for preparation for OPLAN materials, crew copy

formats and checklists, Nuclear Execution Report (NEREP) and checklists, forward operating location (FOL) BUGGY RIDE and other information as appropriate.

3.8. Planning. HQ AFGSC shall define takeoff criteria, weather factors, airspeeds, refueling, high altitude planning factors, aircraft loading and mission planning summary, basic weight considerations, mission planning factors, minimum runway for OPLAN and crisis situations, ground rules for computer generated data and other information as appropriate.

Chapter 4

MOBILITY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

This chapter applies to nuclear contingency support mobility operations. Nuclear Airlift conducted by Prime Nuclear Airlift Force (PNAF), Department of Energy (DOE) Special Nuclear Material (SNM) missions, or Emergency Nuclear Airlift Operations (ENAO) is spelled out in AFI 13-526.

4.1. Command Relationships. In accordance the GFMIG, in support of OPLAN requirements, upon POTUS/SECDEF directed generation, USSTRATCOM gains Operational Control of specified Mobility Air Force (MAF) assets. As supporting Commands, US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), US European Command (USEUCOM), and US Pacific Command (USPACOM) remain responsible for all logistics and maintenance support of assets that Change Operational Control (CHOP) to USSTRATCOM in support of OPLAN requirements.

4.1.1. Air Component Commands shall establish policy for their respective units IAW this directive. For the purpose of this chapter, CONUS NGB and AFRC MAJCOM responsibilities fall under Air Mobility Command (AMC) IAW lead command guidance for applicable MAF assets from AFPD 10-9.

4.2. Operations.

4.2.1. Day-to-Day requirements.

4.2.1.1. Unit Responsibilities. All tanker units identified by their MAJCOM Support Plan shall:

4.2.1.1.1. Be prepared to generate forces to hard alert IAW OPOD and MAJCOM Instructions.

4.2.1.1.2. Advise their respective MAJCOMs of any issues that would affect their ability to accomplish the nuclear support mission.

4.2.1.1.3. Develop procedures to ensure the Alert Force is able to support nuclear support operations.

4.2.1.1.4. Ensure personnel are trained and capable of executing recovery and regeneration missions, as defined by MAJCOM, if applicable.

4.2.1.1.5. Report IAW AFI 10-206, EAP-STRAT Vols 11 and 12, and SI 501-14, as applicable.

4.2.1.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. MAJCOMs shall:

4.2.1.2.1. Monitor, assess, and report to USSTRATCOM on unit capability to implement OPLAN requirements.

4.2.1.2.2. Be prepared to support the implementation of nuclear support operations by developing appropriate policies and procedures.

4.2.1.2.3. Be prepared to coordinate on USSTRATCOM policy and procedures.

4.2.1.2.4. Establish procedures for survival of and regeneration of USSTRATCOM MAF Forces.

4.2.1.2.5. Advise USSTRATCOM and Task Force-294 of any unit issues that would affect their ability to accomplish their nuclear support mission tasking.

4.2.2. Generation.

4.2.2.1. Unit Responsibilities. Upon direction, generate forces IAW applicable OPODs and MAJCOM guidance.

4.2.2.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. MAJCOMs shall monitor and support the generation of allocated assets. MAJCOMs shall advise USSTRATCOM TF-294 of any deviations.

4.2.3. Alert Operations. Combatant commands and components shall provide procedures to carry-out alert operations.

4.2.3.1. Unit Responsibilities. Units shall support and sustain the Alert Force. Units are responsible for providing security, maintenance, and logistical support to the Alert Force.

4.2.3.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. MAJCOMs shall monitor and support the Alert Force. MAJCOMs shall advise USSTRATCOM TF-294 of any issues that affects the Alert Force.

4.2.4. Accountability. Refer to AFI 21-203, *Nuclear Accountability Procedures* for guidance with respect to nuclear weapons accounting, weapons custody, and reporting.

4.2.5. Maintenance on Nuclear Loaded Aircraft. Refer to loading technical orders T.O. 1B-52H-16 and T.O. 1B-2A-16, AFI 91-112, *Safety Rules for US/NATO Strike Fighters*, and other 91 series AFIs for nuclear surety and specific maintenance guidance with respect to nuclear loaded aircraft.

4.2.6. Deployment Operations.

4.2.6.1. Unit Responsibilities. Units shall ensure personnel are trained for deployment requirements particular to OPLAN support, as required by MAJCOM Support Plans and Instructions.

4.2.6.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. MAJCOMs shall ensure plans are in place for deployment of nuclear support operations forces by air, sea, or land, as necessary. Unless pre-coordinated, standard Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) procedures apply.

4.3. Recovery and Regeneration.

4.3.1. Unit Responsibilities. To the maximum extent possible, units shall support recovery and regeneration of any DoD forces, as able.

4.3.2. MAJCOM Responsibilities. MAJCOM entities shall support recovery and regeneration of all DoD forces, as able. MAJCOMs shall support recovery and regeneration sustainment missions, as able.

4.4. Certification, Qualification, and Training Program.

4.4.1. Certification. MAJCOMs shall establish specific requirements needed for certifying officials, crewmembers, controllers, and other specialties as needed to accomplish their prospective nuclear mission.

4.4.1.1. AMC and AMC-gained tanker units are responsible for establishing a certification program to ensure all aircrew are capable of executing all mission sets.

4.4.1.2. USAFE/PACAF are responsible for ensuring applicable units establish a certification program to ensure necessary aircrew are capable of executing applicable mission sets.

4.5. Combat Mission Folder (CMF). AMC shall define general instructions, security instructions, documentation control and standardization procedures, OPLAN mission preparation and responsibilities, reproduction of CMF materials, CMF validation and certification, time factors for preparation, assembly, validation and certification, control, issue and storage of CMFs, CMF change procedures, instructions for preparation for OPLAN materials, crew copy formats and checklists, NEREP and checklists, FOL BUGGY RIDE and other information as appropriate.

4.6. Planning. AMC shall define takeoff criteria, weather factors, airspeeds, refueling, high altitude planning factors, aircraft loading and mission planning summary, basic weight considerations, mission planning factors, minimum runway for OPLAN and crisis situations, ground rules for computer generated data and other information as appropriate.

Chapter 5

RECONNAISSANCE IN SUPPORT OF NUCLEAR OPERATIONS (RISNO)

5.1. Command Relationships. In accordance with the GFMIG, in support of OPLAN requirements, USSTRATCOM gains Operational Control of specified Reconnaissance in Support of Nuclear Operations assets.

5.2. Day-to-Day requirements.

5.2.1. Unit Responsibilities.

5.2.1.1. Be prepared to generate forces to hard alert IAW OPORD Global Citadel.

5.2.1.2. Advise ACC of any issues that would affect unit's ability to accomplish their nuclear support mission.

5.2.1.3. Develop procedures to ensure Alert Force is able to support nuclear operations.

5.2.1.4. Ensure personnel are trained and capable of executing recovery and regeneration missions, as defined by ACC, if applicable.

5.2.1.5. Reporting Procedures. Refer to AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*, EAP-STRAT Vols 5 and 10, and SI 501-14 for reporting procedures.

5.2.2. ACC Responsibilities.

5.2.2.1. HQ ACC shall monitor, assess, and report to USSTRATCOM on unit capability to implement OPLAN requirements.

5.2.2.2. HQ ACC shall be prepared to implement nuclear operations by developing appropriate policies and procedures.

5.2.2.3. HQ ACC shall be prepared to coordinate on USSTRATCOM policy and procedures.

5.2.2.4. HQ ACC shall establish procedures for survival of and regeneration of USSTRATCOM RISNO forces.

5.3. Generation.

5.3.1. Unit Responsibilities. Upon direction, generate forces IAW applicable OPORDs and ACC guidance. Units shall advise any deviations to USSTRATCOM via TF 204.

5.3.2. ACC Responsibilities. HQ ACC shall monitor and support the generation of allocated assets.

5.4. Alert Operations. USSTRATCOM and HQ ACC shall provide procedures to carry-out alert operations.

5.4.1. Unit Responsibilities. Units shall support and sustain the Alert Force. Units are responsible for providing security, maintenance, and logistical support to the Alert Force. Units shall advise USSTRATCOM via TF-204 of any issues that affect the Alert Force.

5.4.2. ACC Responsibilities. HQ ACC shall monitor and support the Alert Force.

5.5. Recovery and Regeneration.

5.5.1. Unit Responsibilities. To the maximum extent possible, units shall support recovery and regeneration of any DoD forces.

5.5.2. ACC Responsibilities. HQ ACC shall support recovery and regeneration of all DoD forces and shall support recovery and regeneration sustainment missions.

5.6. Certification, Qualification, and Training Program. ACC shall define general policy, OPLAN study and certification program, recurring OPLAN study program and general knowledge, aircrew nuclear command and control procedures training and strategic communications and other requirements and information as appropriate.

5.7. Operations. ACC shall define the following based on USSTRATCOM requirements: Generation requirements, generation ground rules, generation rates, residual resources, deployment procedures, alert generation procedures, operations, alert procedures, weather impacts, alert maintenance, OPLAN launch, BUGGY RIDE, survival launch, positive control and emergency launch options, takeoff to departure point, turnaround times, dispersal, air refueling planning, reconnaissance reserve forces, aircraft regeneration, launch and mission decision checklists, takeoff and abort procedures, en route aborts and other information as appropriate.

5.8. Combat Mission Folder (CMF). ACC shall define general instructions, security instructions, documentation control and standardization procedures, OPLAN mission preparation and responsibilities, reproduction of CMF materials, CMF validation and certification, time factors for preparation, assembly, validation and certification, control, issue and storage of CMFs, CMF change procedures, instructions for preparation for OPLAN materials, contents of Employment Mission Folders (EMF) and Dispersal / Deployment Mission Folder (DDMF), crew copy formats and checklists, NEREP and checklists, FOL BUGGY RIDE and other information as appropriate.

5.9. Planning. ACC shall define takeoff criteria, weather factors, airspeeds, refueling, altitude planning factors, probability of survival factors, aircraft loading and mission planning summary, basic weight considerations, mission planning factors, minimum runway for OPLAN and crisis situations, ground rules for computer generated data and other information as appropriate.

5.10. Exercises. ACC shall (based on USSTRATCOM requirements) define responsibilities, exercise policy, requirements, exercise tasking, credit and waiver, management and reporting, exercise execution and other information as appropriate.

5.11. Processing Exploitation and Dissemination (PED). Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA) shall manage PED systems, forces and policy supporting nuclear operations. AFISRA shall define requirements for and ensure units train on USSTRATCOM required reporting, alternate means to pass information, routing information, and other requirements and information as appropriate.

Chapter 6

DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT (DCA)

6.1. Readiness

6.1.1. Nuclear Readiness Requirement. Nuclear readiness levels are directed by CJCSI 3110.04C Nuclear Supplement to the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP).

6.1.2. Readiness categories for the nuclear mission drive nuclear certification and training requirements. Reference the USAFEI 13-520, *DCA Operations*, for specifics concerning readiness levels.

6.1.3. Wing Nuclear Operations Plan. DCA Wings shall produce a written “Wing Nuclear Operations Plan” to describe what steps are necessary to prepare for nuclear operations within the time limit of their readiness category.

6.1.3.1. DCA units shall account for time to accomplish operations, maintenance, and security personnel training qualification, and certification to accomplish the necessary logistic preparation, to deploy to another location (if required), to receive any additional theater AOR training, and be ready to employ nuclear weapons.

6.1.3.2. DCA Wings shall extract applicable data from existing conventional deployment preparations plans as required to complete the “Wing Nuclear Operations Plan.” The MAJCOM shall assist Wings as necessary. The wing shall accomplish an annual review of their Wing Nuclear Operations Plan, to be completed NLT the end of the fiscal year.

6.1.3.3. Nuclear Operations Plans shall be coordinated with the MAJCOM/A10 (Primary) and the MAJCOM/A3 (Secondary). If a MAJCOM does not have an A10 at directorate level, then the MAJCOM/A3 is the primary POC for this plan’s coordination prior to publishing.

6.1.3.4. MAJCOMs shall review each plan within 30 days after receipt from the Wings to ensure compliance with HHQ guidance.

6.2. DCA Mission Generation & Pre-launch Procedures

6.2.1. Strike mission generation orders shall generate the appropriate actions so the unit can conduct, or be ready to conduct, assigned missions.

6.2.2. Responsibilities. Pilots/WSOs and ground crews shall strictly observe the rules and procedures governing nuclear surety and Two Person Control (TPC). All personnel authorized entry into an exclusion area shall understand the locally prescribed duress code word or signal procedures. Codes shall be revealed only to persons having a “need to know”.

6.2.3. Strike Aircraft Generation. DCA units shall generate aircraft when notified and tasked by the proper authority. All Generation operations shall be IAW USAFEI 13-520.

6.2.4. Sole-Vouching Authority (SVA) Procedures. SVA authorization is required for entry into an exclusion area. Transfers of SVA shall be briefed in view of the Exclusion Area Entry Controller (EEC). The SVA shall always be the first to enter and the last to leave an established exclusion area.

6.2.5. **Weapon Custody.** Custody shall only be transferred to those individuals authorized. Reference AFI21-203, *Nuclear Accountability Procedures*.

6.2.6. **Maintenance on Nuclear Loaded Aircraft.** Refer to loading technical orders T.O. 1F-XX-16 and, AFI 91-112, *Safety Rules for US/NATO Strike Fighters*, and other 91 series AFI for specific maintenance guidance with respect to nuclear loaded aircraft.

6.3. DCA Employment Procedures

6.3.1. **Restrictions.** The mission aircrew shall comply with USAFEI 13-520 and all other applicable restrictions while employing a nuclear weapon. Additionally, refer to AFI 91-112, *Safety Rules for US/NATO Strike Fighters* and appropriate aircraft T.O.s for more detailed descriptions of procedures and safety rules.

6.3.2. USAFE, in coordination with NATO guidance and directives; shall provide guidance for Abort, Termination, Weapon Retention and Jettison Procedures.

6.4. Certification, Qualification, and Training Program. This chapter defines the Fighter Aircrew Nuclear Qualification Training (FANQT) program and establishes the procedures and criteria for conducting and maintaining nuclear mission certification. The MAJCOM, in coordination with NATO guidance and directives; shall define general policy, certification program structure and requirements, general knowledge, aircrew nuclear command, control, and strategic communications procedures training, and any other information as appropriate.

6.4.1. **Security Clearance.** Aircrew shall hold a SSBI Top Secret clearance.

6.4.2. **Emergency Action Procedures (EAP) Training.** To accomplish the nuclear mission, pilots/WSOs shall be able to receive and process EAPs.

6.4.3. **Nuclear Ready Aircrew Program (RAP) Training Requirements.** Pilots/WSOs shall comply with the requirements outlined in the MAJCOM RAP Tasking Message.

6.5. Combat Mission Folder (CMF). The CMF contains materials to be used by the aircrew in pre-mission preparation/study and during mission execution. It includes the materials contained in the Mission Preparation Section (MPS) and the Combat Mission Section (CMS). The CMF OPR shall use a standardized procedure within the unit to issue and account for CMF materials.

The CMF OPR shall ensure all CMF materials are properly classified, marked, and safeguarded IAW the appropriate security classification level.

6.6. Planning. USAFE shall define takeoff criteria, weather factors, airspeeds, refueling, altitude planning factors, probability of survival factors, aircraft loading and mission planning summary, basic weight considerations, mission planning factors, minimum runway, ground rules for computer generated data and other information as appropriate.

Chapter 7

NUCLEAR PUBLICATIONS

7.1. MAJCOM Nuclear Operations Publications. Publish MAJCOM Nuclear Operations instructions as delineated in table below. Nuclear Operations instructions shall, at a minimum include applicable procedures for:

Table 1.

Pub ID	Mission	OPR
AFGSCI 13-520 V1-4	Strategic Nuclear Bomber	HQ AFGSC
AMCI 13-520	Mobility	AMC
ACCI 13-520	Reconnaissance	ACC
USAFEI 13-520	DCA (Fighter)	USAFE

7.1.1. Pre-departure and departure.

7.1.2. Alert and operations.

7.1.3. Combat Mission Folders (CMF) to include general preparation, rules, security, and minimum mission contents.

7.1.4. Emergencies, contingencies and incidents.

7.1.5. Generation to include weapons acceptance (if applicable), and maintenance allowed on generated aircraft, as coordinated through USSTRATCOM or appropriate COCOM.

7.1.6. Weapons to include restrictions, retention, emergency disposition and Permissive Action Link (PAL).

7.1.7. Emergency War Order (EWO) rules to include launch, en route timing, weapons delivery and recovery.

7.1.8. Peacetime rules to include launch, en route timing and recovery.

7.1.9. Air refueling.

7.1.10. Command and control to include Emergency Action Procedures (EAPs).

7.1.11. Reconnaissance In Support Nuclear Operations (RISNO) tracks, collections and Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination (PED)

7.1.12. Recovery and regeneration procedures.

7.1.13. Bomber Strategic Aircraft Regeneration Team (BSART) / Tanker Strategic Aircraft Regeneration Team (TSART) / Reconnaissance Support Team Reserve (RSTR) / Reconnaissance Support Team (RST).

7.1.14. Forward Located Alert Generation (FLAG)/Forward Operating Location (FOL)/Dispersal.

7.1.15. Operations scheduling & exercises. MAJCOM instructions shall provide guidance in this area.

7.1.16. Additional operational limits and restrictions.

WILLIAM A. CHAMBERS, Maj Gen, USAF
ACS/Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

NOTE: The user of this instruction is responsible for verifying the currency of the cited documents.

References

- DoDD 3150.2, *DoD Weapon System Safety Program*, 23 Dec 1996
- DoDI S-3150.07, *Controlling the Use of Nuclear Weapons (U)*, 21 Dec 2010
- DoDD 5210.41, *Security Policy for Protecting Nuclear Weapons*, 1 Nov 2004
- DoD 5210.42—AFMAN 10-3902, *Nuclear Weapons Reliability Program*, 30 Jun 2006
- JP 1-02, *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, 15 Aug 2012
- AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 Mar 2008
- AFMAN 31-108 Vol1-3, *Nuclear Weapon Security Manual*, 1 Feb 2010
- AFPD 13-5, *Air Force Nuclear Enterprise*, 6 Jul 2011
- AFI 10-204, *Participation in Joint and National Exercises*, 21 Apr 2010
- AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*, 6 Sept 2011
- AFI 10-419, (S) *Dual Capable Aircraft Nuclear Training, Planning and Operational Procedure F15E/F-16 (U)*, 1 Sep 2003
- AFI 11-202 V3, *General Flight Rules*, 22 Oct 2010
- AFI 21-203, *Nuclear Accountability Procedures*, 23 Nov 2009
- AFI 31-101, *Integrated Defense*, 8 Oct 2009
- AFI 31-401, *Information Security Program Management*, 1 Nov 2005
- AFI 31-407, (S) *Air Force Nuclear Weapons Security Classification Policy (U)*, 1 Oct 2003
- AFI 33-201V1, *Communications Security (COMSEC)*, 1 May 2005
- AFI 63-125, *Nuclear Certification Program*, 8 Aug 2012
- AFI 90-201, *The AF Inspection System*, 23 Mar, 2012
- AFI 91-101, *Air Force Nuclear Weapons Surety Program*, 24 Feb 2000
- AFI 91-102, *Nuclear Weapon System Safety Studies, Operational Safety Reviews, and Safety Rules*, 13 Oct 2010
- AFI 91-104, *Nuclear Surety Tamper Control and Detection Programs*, 10 Sep 2010
- AFI 91-105, *Critical Components* 7 Jan 2011
- AFI 91-112, *Safety Rules for US/NATO Strike Fighters*, 9 Sep 2009
- AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports*, 24 Sep 2008

Prescribed Forms

AF Form 847 Recommendation *for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACS—Assistant Chief of Staff

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRC—Air Force Reserve Command

AMCI—Air Mobility Command Instruction

ANG—Air National Guard

ARC—Air Reserve Component

ART—Air and Space Expeditionary Force Reporting Tool

BSART—Bomber Strategic Aircraft Regeneration Team

CC—Commander

C2—Command and Control

CFLI—Core Function Lead Integrators

CMF—Combat Mission Folder

COMSEC—Communications Security

CONPLAN—Concept Plan

DNO— Director of Nuclear Operations

DOC—Designed Operational Capability

DoD—Department of Defense

DoE—Department of Energy

DRRS— Defense Readiness Reporting System

EWO—Emergency War Order

FDE— Force Development Evaluation

FRD—Formerly Restricted Data

HHQ—Higher Headquarters

IAW—in accordance with

JOPES— Joint Operation Planning and Execution System

MAJCOM—Major Command

MDS—Mission Design Series

NAF—Numbered Air Force
NC2—Nuclear Command and Control
NC3—Nuclear Command, Control and Communications
NCOP—Nuclear Control Order Procedures
NDO—Nuclear Deterrence Operations
NGB—National Guard Bureau
NSSAV—Nuclear Surety Assistance Visit
OCA—Original Classification Authority
OG/CC—Operations Group Commander
OPCON—Operational Control
OPLAN—Operations Plan
OPORDs—Operational Orders
OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility
PNAF—Prime Nuclear Airlift Force
PRP—Personnel Reliability Program
RD—Restricted Data
RISNO— Reconnaissance in Support of Nuclear Operations
RSTR—Reconnaissance Support Team Reserve
RST—Reconnaissance Support Team
SAV—Staff Assistance Visit
SCF—Service Core Functions
SQ/CC—Squadron Commander
SORTS—Status of Readiness and Training System
TSART—Tanker Strategic Aircraft Regeneration Team
UTC—Unit Type Code

Terms

NOTE: The purpose of this glossary is to help the reader understand the terms used in this publication. It is not intended to encompass all pertinent terms. Joint Publication 1—02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, 12 April 2001, and AFDD1-2, Air Force Glossary, contain standardized terms and definitions for DoD and Air Force use.

Classification—the determination that official information requires, in the interests of national security, a specific degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure, coupled with a designation signifying that such a determination has been made.

Classification/Declassification Guide—a documentary form of classification/declassification guidance issued by an Original Classification Authority (OCA) that identifies the elements of information regarding a specific subject that shall be classified and establishes the level and duration of classification for each such element.

Communications Security (COMSEC)—The protection resulting from all measures designed to deny unauthorized persons information of value that might be derived from the possession and study of telecommunications, or to mislead unauthorized persons in their interpretation of the results of such possession and study. Communications security includes: crypto security, transmission security, emission security, and physical security of communications security materials and information.

Concept of Operations (CONOPS)—A verbal or graphic statement, in broad outline, of a commander's assumptions or intent in regard to an operation or series of operations. The concept of operations frequently is embodied in campaign plans and operation plans; in the latter case, particularly when the plans cover a series of connected operations to be carried out simultaneously or in succession. The concept is designed to give an overall picture of the operation. It is included primarily for additional clarity of purpose also called commander's concept.

Concept Plan (CONPLAN)—An operation plan in an abbreviated format that would require considerable expansion or alteration to convert it into an OPLAN or OPORD. A CONPLAN contains the combatant commander's strategic concept and those annexes and appendixes deemed necessary by the combatant commander to complete planning. Generally, detailed support requirements are not calculated and time-phased force and deployment data (TPFDD) files are not prepared. A CONPLAN with TPFDD is the same as a CONPLAN except that it requires more detailed planning for phased deployment of forces.

Core Function Lead Integrators (CFLIs)—SECAF/CSAF-designated leaders who serve as the principal integrators for their assigned SCFs. CFLIs guide SCF maturation and SCF-related investments by developing SCF strategy in collaboration with key stakeholders across the Air Force, including HAF functionals, MAJCOMs and the ARC.

Crew—The total complement of qualified personnel (primary crewmember, mission crewmember) required to operate a system and to complete an assigned mission.

Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information (CNWDI)—Applies to DoD Secret or Top Secret information RD that is particularly sensitive. Access is limited to the minimum number of people who need it to do their job. CNWDI Approving Official authority is assigned to division chiefs and above at all levels of command.

Formerly Restricted Data (FRD)—defined by the Atomic Energy Act as classified information which has been removed from the RD category after DoE and the DoD have jointly determined that it relates primarily to the military utilization of atomic weapons, and can be adequately safeguarded as national security information.

Mission Design Series—System by which military aerospace vehicles are identified IAW DoD

4120.15—L, *Model Designation of Military Aerospace Vehicles*.

Nuclear Certification—A determination by the Air Force that procedures, software, equipment, and facilities are sufficient to perform nuclear weapon functions; personnel and

organizations are capable of performing assigned nuclear missions; evaluates and documents compliance with the “Positive Measures” required by the DoD Nuclear Weapon System Safety Standards; required before the nuclear weapon system or item of equipment can be used with war reserve weapons; mandated by DoD Directive and Manual 3150.2; and implemented by AFI 63-125, *Nuclear Certification Program*.

Nuclear Enterprise—The people, organizations, processes, procedures, infrastructure and systems that are used to conduct, execute, and support nuclear forces and operations.

Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR)—Any agency or activity having the primary functional interest in, and responsibility for, a specific action, project, plan, program, or problem.

Operational Control (OPCON)—Command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of COCOM. Operational control is inherent in combatant command (command authority) and may be delegated within the command. When forces are transferred between combatant commands, the command relationship the gaining commander shall exercise (and the losing commander shall relinquish) over these forces must be specified by the Secretary of Defense. Operational control is the authority to perform those functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. Operational control includes authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish missions assigned to the command. Operational control should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders and Service and/or functional component commanders. Operational control normally provides full authority to organize commands and forces and to employ those forces as the commander in operational control considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions; it does not, in and of itself, include authoritative direction for logistics or matters of administration, discipline, internal organization, or unit training.

Operations Plan (OPLAN)—Any plan for the conduct of military operations. Plans are prepared by Combatant Commanders in response to requirements established by the CJCS and by commanders of subordinate commands in response to requirements tasked by the establishing unified commander. Operation plans are prepared in either a complete format (OPLAN) or as a CONPLAN. The CONPLAN can be published with or without a time-phased force and deployment data (TPFDD) file. An operation plan for the conduct of joint operations can be used as a basis for development of an operation order (OPORD). An OPLAN identifies the forces and supplies required to execute the combatant commander's strategic concept and a movement schedule of these resources to the theater of operations. The forces and supplies are identified in TPFDD files. OPLANs shall include all phases of the tasked operation. The plan is prepared with the appropriate annexes, appendixes, and TPFDD files as described in the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) manuals containing planning policies, procedures, and formats.

Original Classification Authority (OCA)—an individual authorized in writing, either by the President, the Vice President in the performance of executive duties, or by agency heads or other officials designated by the President, to classify information in the first instance.

Restricted Data (RD)—defined by the Atomic Energy Act as all data concerning design, manufacture, or utilization of atomic weapons, production of special nuclear material, and use of Special Nuclear Material in the production of energy.

Service Core Functions (SCFs)— Functional areas that delineate the appropriate and assigned core duties, missions, and tasks of the Air Force as an organization, responsibility for each of which is assigned to a Core Function Lead Integrator. SCFs express the ways in which the Air Force is particularly and appropriately suited to contribute to national security, although they do not necessarily express every aspect of what the Air Force contributes to the nation.

Staff Assistance Visit (SAV)—A visit from higher headquarters personnel usually to review subordinate unit processes and procedures to evaluate and improve programs and overall combat readiness. In this instruction, the term functional expert visit is used.

Training Command—The MAJCOM assigned responsibility for formal school training in each MDS/weapons system-specific function or activity.

Unit Type Code (UTC)—A Joint Chiefs of Staff developed and assigned code, consisting of five characters that uniquely identify a "type unit."