

Air Force Policy Letter for Commanders

From the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force



Washington, D.C. 1 February 1983

Peace is best secured by those who use their strength justly, but whose attitude shows that they have no intention of submitting to wrong. -- Thucydides, Athenian historian, 432 B.C.

NEW AIR FORCE RESEARCH AND WARGAMING CENTER. The Center for Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education (CADRE) was opened at the Air University on 3 Jan. "to assist in developing Air Force doctrine, concepts and strategy which form a major portion of the Air University mission." CADRE was formed by realigning existing elements of the Air War College, the Extension Course Institute and the Air University Library into a new organization at the air division level.

Lt. Gen. Charles G. Cleveland, Commander of Air University, said "the new alignment expands AU's capabilities by supporting research needs of the Air Force and by focusing its efforts to stimulate fresh thinking in areas of warfighting and force employment."

The new center's three major divisions -- the Airpower Research Institute, the Air Force Wargaming Center, and the AU Press -- will conduct basic and applied aerospace power research; assist in development, analysis and testing of concepts, doctrine and strategy; conduct computerized wargaming for the Air Force; and provide specialized educational assistance and publication support for AU academic programs.

A PROLIFERATION OF SIMILAR REQUIREMENTS? At his confirmation hearing as Deputy Secretary of Defense before the Senate Armed Services Committee, W. Paul Thayer said: "Our improving technology and broader commitments appear to be creating overlaps in roles and missions and therefore a proliferation of similar requirements. Because of this I would expect to address myself specifically to the opportunities to improve the front end of the acquisition cycle in defining our needs. As part of this process we must improve our ability to specify our needs to industry."

REDUCTION IN THE PROPOSED NEW DEFENSE BUDGET. At a news conference in the Pentagon on 11 Jan., Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger presented a statement on his recommendation to the President "that we can reduce the proposed Defense Budget by \$11.3 billion in budget authority from the \$284.7 billion budget authority figure that we originally proposed in 1982." He added:

"None of these reductions, however, will adversely affect the major programs needed to regain our national security nor to restore the balance by which we effectively maintain the peace and prevent aggression. Indeed, the recommendation will still sustain the momentum that we've already secured in the first two years necessary to achieve our objectives.

"Part of this \$11.3 billion reduction would consist of the reduced cost of fuel and the reduction in the cost of many items that we must buy resulting from sharply lower inflation rates that the Administration has been able to secure. All of these reductions of course have been long planned and understood and discussed with the President many times over since it was known how effective our anti-inflationary campaign has been. The balance of these reductions would be achieved by some personnel cost savings, deferral of some domestic military construction, and reduction of other planned expenses, including some training costs that involve movement of troops and things of that kind.

"While this modified defense level protects the most essential elements of our programs to improve the readiness and modernization of national security capabilities, no one should believe that these reductions will not adversely affect some of our military capabilities. The threat has not only not lessened, but has in fact increased."

(The following was excerpted from the letter sent on 16 Nov. to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops by William P. Clark, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Writing on behalf of the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and other officials, he commented on and suggested changes in the second draft of the pastoral letter prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee on War and Peace for review by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The pastoral letter, scheduled to be released in May, raises questions about whether our strategy of nuclear deterrence is morally defensible. Not yet in final form, the letter, when published, could have a significant effect on attitudes of many Armed Forces members.)

As we negotiate seriously to achieve the steep reductions and the effective limitations we all want in the arsenals of war, it must be clearly understood that our military forces are armed and organized to deter attack and coercion and to prevent war. It is our policy, and that of our Allies, not to use any force, whether nuclear or non-nuclear, except to deter and defend against aggression. We must, therefore, assure that in view of the unprecedented Soviet military buildup of the last decade, and longer, our deterrent forces remain sufficiently strong and credible to assure effective deterrence.

The draft pastoral letter does not describe either the facts or the impact of the Soviet buildup which we face and which goes far beyond defensive needs. Neither does the letter describe any of the many past unilateral initiatives taken for arms limitation in the last decade by the United States, including reduction in our defense budgets, in real terms, and the eliminating or delay of important U.S. military modernization programs. These are important factors the Commission will need to take into account in its future assessments.

The draft pastoral letter reminds the reader that the Bishops' 1980 pastoral letter on Marxism described significant differences between Christian teaching and Marxism. The letter also notes that the "fact of a Soviet threat, as well as the existence of a Soviet imperial drive for hegemony, at least in regions of major strategic interest, cannot be denied" (p. 77). The letter recalls memories of repressive Soviet policies in Eastern Europe and recently in Afghanistan and Poland. It might have added Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central America as areas where the military power of the Soviet Union and its allies has increasingly expanded by force of arms. In this connection, the draft letter importantly urges its readers to reject "romantic idealism about Soviet intentions and capabilities," and declares that "Americans need have no illusions about the Soviet system of repression, or about the lack of respect in that system for human rights" (p. 78).

It is important for the Bishops' Conference to know our decisions on nuclear armaments, and our defense posture are guided by moral considerations as compelling as any which have faced mankind. The strategy of deterrence on which our policies are based is not an end in itself but a means to prevent war and preserve the values we cherish -- individual liberty, freedom of worship, freedom of conscience and expression, respect for the sanctity of human life, and the rule of law through representative institutions. As Americans, we are among the fortunate few in the world who enjoy these blessings.

These traditions and values are not shared by the Soviet Union, which subordinates all individual rights to the needs of a totalitarian state. Individual voices, including those who seek to worship freely and who raise concern about the preservation of peace, are uncompromisingly suppressed, both within the Soviet Union and in those countries to which it has extended its sway. While oppression is common to much of the world, in the case of the Soviet Union it has been wedded to military arsenals and a militant dogma that threaten peace and freedom everywhere. . . .

We believe that by sustaining effective deterrence and working for effective arms control, we will preserve the peace while protecting the fundamental values of Western civilization which you share. . . . As we continue our earnest efforts toward genuine peace, we believe that to turn our backs on a course that has kept the peace for over three decades of the nuclear age would increase the risks of war and endanger the cause of freedom throughout the world.

BRIEFS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE AIR FORCE

Commenting on the meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Gen. T.R. Milton, USAF (Ret.), writes in his January 1983 Air Force Magazine column: "At their conclave in Washington last November, the bishops drafted a pastoral letter, subject to ratification next May, that would provide teaching guidance to America's 50,000,000 Catholics. Since the draft letter was supported by 70% of the bishops in November, the likelihood of ratification appears good. And, since the Roman Catholic Church is a disciplined body as churches go, the pastoral letter promises to have a far-reaching and divisive effect on both the Church and America's Armed Forces. . . . The bishop's letter denounces as immoral the use of nuclear weapons or even the intent to use them. It condemns any targeting of nuclear weapons near cities or any first-use of these weapons. . . . What the bishops have done is challenge the basic strategy of both the United States and the Atlantic Alliance -- a strategy that defers to the Soviets the first hostile move."

Nuclear technology can be used to blunt the destructiveness of nuclear weapons, according to physicist Edward Teller, a Senior Research Fellow at Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and a consultant at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In an article in Defense Science 2000+ he wrote: "Few people in our nation are aware of the fact that active defense of missile sites, and perhaps cities, has become a real possibility. . . . I am sure that very small-sized nuclear explosives (for example, a nuclear bomb equivalent to about 50 tons of TNT) sent up to meet incoming missiles in the atmosphere can succeed in disabling them there without detonating the missiles. The effects of these little explosions will hardly be noticeable on the ground. However, this will require an assured warning from eyes in the sky. . . . Indeed, a truly defensive posture (of which space has to be an integral part) could lead to a much more stable situation which one may call 'mutually assured survival.' This cannot be accomplished without a survivable space observation system to deliver warning of war preparations, particularly the launching of destructive missiles."

"A fighter that can point itself sideways and shoot without changing its flight path, turn without banking, and climb without pitching its nose up. Voice controls in the cockpit. A helmet-mounted sight that lets a pilot acquire a target simply by looking at it. A wing that is able to alter its shape from root to tip and from leading edge with no break in the smooth contour of its upper surface. Integrated flight and fire controls that free pilots from the traditional tail chase mode of attack. Such capabilities are not a gleam in some designer's eye. All are in the air for flight-testing, or soon will be." That's the introduction by John T. Correll, Senior Editor of Air Force Magazine, to an eye-opening article in the January issue on the Aeronautical Systems Division (ASD), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

A fighter pilot prefers to keep his eyes directed outside the cockpit, looking for enemy targets, and maintaining hands-on control of the aircraft. In the future, voice command will allow him to operate the aircraft avionics and flight control modes without taking his hands off crucial flight controls and without concentrating his attention inside the cockpit. Voice control is being tested in a one-of-a-kind testbed aircraft, AFTI/F-16 (Advanced Fighter Technology Integration), which is jointly sponsored by U.S. Air Force, NASA and the Navy. The AFTI/F-16 pilot uses the voice command system by speaking into his oxygen mask microphone. The AFTI/F-16 Phase I voice command effort is being sponsored by Flight Dynamics Laboratory (FDL) and the Air Force Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. In early 1981, a contract was awarded to Lear Siegler, Inc., Grand Rapids, Mich., under subcontract to AFTI/F-16 contractor General Dynamics Corp., Fort Worth, Texas, to build the flight-worthy speech-recognizing equipment for Phase I flight testing. FDL is part of Aeronautical Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command.

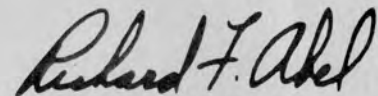
Commanders and others interested in the problem of getting sports and other events televised via satellite overseas on schedule will find a new fact sheet on the subject useful. Titled "AFRTS-PC and Satellite Events," it explains the procedures followed by the Armed Force Radio and Television Service Programming Center (AFRTS-PC) in making reservations for scheduled televised events. The fact sheet on AFRTS-PC and satellite events has been sent to Public Affairs offices throughout the Air Force. Long leadtime is one problem faced by AFRTS

programmers. For example, in August 1982, AFRTS-PC forwarded requests for anticipated January 1984 events. Private national and foreign companies are involved in the complex scheduling. An AFRTS worldwide satellite network (SATNET) is being developed. It is now serving U.S. forces in Puerto Rico, Panama and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

February 1983 has been designated as Black History Month throughout the Department of Defense. The theme suggested by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History is "The United States Constitution and the Black American." Commanders have been informed that observances may extend over the full month of February or may be limited to a shorter period in February. They have been authorized and encouraged to permit personnel to participate in local community programs and to use public information channels to publicize events.

A worldwide locator service may be used by active-duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve and their family members at no charge. Requestors should provide all known information about the individual for whom they are searching. Send the full name, social security account number (SSAN), or service number and grade to: Headquarters Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center/MPC003, Randolph AFB, TX 78150. To avoid violating the Privacy Act, a system has been devised to contact retired members. Requestors should place letters in sealed, stamped envelopes with return address and name of the individual to be contacted. That sealed envelope and all available information on the person to be located should be placed in another envelope and mailed to the worldwide locator.

Air Force members may now be paid up to \$25,000 in claims for household goods that are damaged or lost during shipment or storage on a change of station move. An amendment to the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act of 1964 raised the limit.



RICHARD F. ABEL
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Public Affairs

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