

COPY



By TJM NARA, Date 11/14/85

Declassified
E.O. 12958, Sect. 3.6

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

October 11, 1969

Handwritten:
Kearney
Kearney Folde

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Test of U. S. Military Readiness

As you directed, actions have been taken and are being planned to test the readiness posture of selected U. S. forces. These actions will be discernible to the Soviets, but not threatening.

We have selected initial actions which can be taken without prior consultation with our allies, with no additional expenditure of funds and without degradation of current essential missions.

I believe these actions and other suggested actions being requested of the commanders concerned will meet the objectives outlined in your request.

A brief outline plan and implementing messages already dispatched are attached hereto.

Handwritten signature

TOP SECRET

SENSITIVE

GROUP-3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified



By TJM NARA, Date 11/14/69

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TOP SECRET

TAB A

OUTLINE PLAN FOR TESTING MILITARY READINESS

Objective - To achieve a readiness posture with selected US forces for the period 13-25 October in a manner which will be discernible to the Soviets, but not threatening.

Assumptions - Actions will: not require additional funding or resources; not require consultation or agreement with allies; can be taken without degradation of current essential missions; can be taken with plausible rationale for public information purposes; be readily apparent to Soviets as increased US readiness for confrontation.

Courses of Action - Selected US military forces worldwide will be directed to stand-down all flying training activity, and to take certain other measures.

a. A message will be dispatched to SAC no later than 1200 hours, 11 October, directing stand-down of all flying training and reinstatement of degraded alert sorties to maximum extent possible. Stand-down will commence at 0800 local Omaha time on 13 October 1969. The stand-down will continue until otherwise directed by the JCS.

b. A message will be dispatched to CINCONAD, CINCPAC, CINCEUR, and CINCSTRIKE, no later than 1200 hours, 13 October, directing stand-down of all flying training

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activities and assumption of highest degree of combat readiness permitted by stand-down and consistent with no change in DEFCON. Stand-down will continue until otherwise directed by the JCS.

Timing - The stand-down postures will continue until US intelligence indicates Soviets have become aware of the increased readiness. A special intelligence watch has been established for this purpose. SAC will begin its stand-down 2 days earlier than other participating commands to permit appearance of intensification of US readiness over a period of several days. The US Sixth Fleet will impose EMCOM to create impression of unusual fleet activity in addition to standing down normal flying training activity. The JCS will determine when commands will be selectively returned to normal posture.

Possible second Phase - Participating commands will be requested by separate message to suggest possible additional measures for second phase implementation. These measures will be considered by the JCS and directed for implementation as selected.

Termination - All operations will return to normal no later than 25 October, and possibly earlier, if directed by the JCS.

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ED FOR COM

JOINT MESSAGE FOR

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

TYPE MSG

BOOK

MULTI

SINGLE

X

PRECEDENCE

ACTION

IMMEDIATE

INFO

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCSAC

TOP SECRET

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE {U}

1. {TS} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS} AS THE SAC PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL TIME 13 OCTOBER 1969.

A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY THE JCS.

B. REINSTATE DEGRADED ALERT SORTIES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE AND REPORT WHEN THIS ACTION IS COMPLETE. THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

CJCS (S)
J-3 (S)

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| MONTH | OCT | YEAR | 1969 |
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DRAFTER

TYPED NAME AND TITLE
COL RAY B. SITTON, USAF
STR OPS DIV, J-3

PHONE
59080

RELEASE

SIGNATURE
Paul M Kearney

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
Paul M Kearney
Administrative Assistant

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

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ABBREVIATED and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

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3. [TS] THESE DIRECTED ACTIONS SHOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT SOUTHEAST ASIA OPERATIONS.

4. [S] IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
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TOP SECRET-NOFORN-SPECAT

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCPAC

INFO: CINCPACFLT
CINCPACAF
COMUSKOREA
COMSAF
SAFADVON

SPECAT

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CJCS
J-3 (U)

TOP SECRET NOFORN SPECAT

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE {U}

1. {TS-NF} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS-NF} AS THE PACOM PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING:

A. COMMENCING AT 0800I, 15 OCT 69 {2300Z, 14 OCT 69}, STANDDOWN ALL REPEAT ALL US MILITARY

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|---------------------------------|--|-------|-------|
| D R A F T E R | TYPED NAME AND TITLE | PHONE | 77254 |
| | LTC W. R. USHER, USAF PACIFIC DIVISION, J-3 | | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| SIGNATURE | <i>Paul M Kearney</i> |
| TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE | Paul M Kearney Administrative Assistant |

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
TOP SECRET-NOFORN-SPECAT

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

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TRAINING FLIGHTS WITHIN THE KOREAN AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE (ADIZ) UNTIL FURTHER DIRECTED BY THE JCS.

B. DIRECT ALL US MILITARY OPERATIONAL AIR UNITS WITHIN THE KOREAN ADIZ TO UTILIZE THE STANDDOWN TO ACHIEVE AN IMPROVED STATE OF READINESS. REINSTATE DEGRADED SIOP ALERT SORTIES TO EXTENT FEASIBLE. DO NOT CHANGE DEFCON.

3. {S-NF} IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-1

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JOINT MESSAGEF

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INFO

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: USCINCEUR

TOP SECRET

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE {U}

1. {TS} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS} AS USEUCOM PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL ZONE TIME ON 15 OCT 69:

A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND MARINE CORPS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY THE JCS.

B. BRING ALL AIRCRAFT AND CREWS TO A MAXIMUM STATE OF READINESS CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CJCS (S)
J-3 (S)

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TYPED NAME AND TITLE
 COL GEORGE H. RUSSELL, USA
 EUROPEAN/MEAFSA DIV., J-3

PHONE 54846

RELEASE

SIGNATURE

Paul M Kearney

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

Paul M Kearney
Administrative Assistant

SECURITY

TOP SECRET

REGRADE INSTRUCTIONS TO CHIEF, JCS.

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By TJM NARA, Date 11/14/85

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IN EXISTING DEFCON.

C. UNITS OF THE SIXTH FLEET WILL OPERATE UNDER CONDITIONS OF MAXIMUM PRACTICAL EMCON COMMENSURATE WITH SAFETY AND WITH THE MINIMUM TRANSMISSIONS REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR EXERCISE DEEP FURROW.

3. {S} IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

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REPLACES EDITION OF 1 MAY 88 WHICH WILL BE USED.

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JOINT MESSAGE (C)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
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DTG

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

*CJCS
J-3*

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCSTRIKE-

T O P S E C R E T

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE (U)

1. (TS) HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS DIRECTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. (TS) AS THE STRIKE PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 LOCAL TIME FOR CONCERNED UNITS ON 15 OCTOBER 1969.

- A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS.
- B. INCREASE THE READINESS OF STRIKE FORCES TO THE HIGHEST STATE OF READINESS THAT CAN BE ATTAINED

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| D R A F T E R | TYPED NAME AND TITLE | PHONE |
| | W. A. EVANS, JR. LTC, USAF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIV, J-3 | 72209 |

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| R E L E A S E R | SIGNATURE |
| | <i>Paul Kearney</i> |
| TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE | |
| Paul M Kearney Administrative Assistant | |

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
TOP SECRET

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS: man, JCS.

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CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE IN DEFCON STATUS.

THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTIFIED BY JCS.

3. {S}. IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

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MESSAGEFORM

RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

TYPE MSG

BOOK MULTI SINGLE
X

PRECEDENCE

ACTION IMMEDIATE

INFO

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCONAD

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

CJCS (S)
J-3 (S)

T O P S E C R E T

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE (U)

1. (TS) HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS DIRECTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. (TS) AS THE CONAD PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 LOCAL TIME FOR CONCERNED UNITS ON 15 OCTOBER 1969.

- A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS.
- B. INCREASE THE READINESS OF CONAD FORCES TO THE HIGHEST STATE OF READINESS THAT CAN BE ATTAINED

28-1

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DRAFTER

TYPED NAME AND TITLE
W. A. EVANS, JR.
LTC, USAF
WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIV, J-3

PHONE
72209

RELEASED

SIGNATURE
Paul H. Kearney

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
Paul H. Kearney
Administrative Assistant
to Chairman, JCS.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
TOP SECRET

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

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CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE IN DEFCON STATUS. THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTIFIED BY JCS.

3. {S} IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

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TOD REPORT

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET-EYES ONLY-SENSITIVE

TYPE MSG

BOOK

MULTI

SINGLE

X

PRECEDENCE

ACTION IMMEDIATE

INFO

DTG

Oct 10 22 05:59

COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: GEN WHEELER, CHAIRMAN, JCS

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

C-76 S
J-8

TO:
GEN HOLLOWAY, CINCSAC
ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC
GEN GOODPASTER, CINCEUR
ADM HOLMES, CINCLANT
GEN HICKEE, CINCNORAD/CONAD
GEN THROCKMORTON, CINCSTRIKE
GEN MATHER, CINSO
LGEN RUEGG, CINCAL

**TOP SECRET
SENSITIVE**

TOP SECRET EYES ONLY SENSITIVE JCS 12650 OCT 69

1. WE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY TO INSTITUTE A SERIES OF ACTIONS DURING THE PERIOD 130000Z - 250000Z OCT, TO TEST OUR MILITARY READINESS IN SELECTED AREAS WORLD-WIDE TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BY THE SOVIET UNION. THESE ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS, BUT NOT THREATENING IN THEMSELVES. THEY MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING TYPE ACTIONS:

ZFF-3

EYES ONLY

A. STAND-DOWN OF FLYING OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT IN SELECTED AREAS OR COMMANDS, TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL READINESS.

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| MONTH | YEAR |
| OCT | 1969 |
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DR APT
TYPED NAME AND TITLE
RADM F. A. BARDSHAR, USN
PHONE 56243

SIGNATURE
Paul B...

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF RADIO AND/OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SILENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OR COMMANDS.

C. INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET SHIPS EN ROUTE TO NORTH VIETNAM.

D. INCREASED GROUND ALERT RATE OF SAC BOMBERS AND TANKERS.

2. TO INITIATE ACTIONS WITHIN THE TIME FRAME SPECIFIED, CERTAIN COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO STAND-DOWN TRAINING FLIGHTS AND INTRODUCE VARYING DEGREES OF EMCON. THESE INITIAL ACTIONS WILL COVER THE FIRST FOUR DAYS OF THE 14-DAY PERIOD.

3. I REQUEST THAT YOU NOMINATE FURTHER ACTIONS COMPATIBLE WITH THE GUIDANCE HEREIN, AND COGNIZANT OF LOCAL PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO YOUR AREAS, ALLIES, AND ENVIRONMENT. THESE NOMINATIONS ARE REQUIRED NLT 122300Z. ACTIONS PROPOSED SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH PROJECT 703.

4. WARM REGARDS. GP-1

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WAKING HOURS.

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RECOMMENDED GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PLAN

1. There will be no public information releases made concerning subject activities or operations. In the event it becomes necessary or desirable to inform the public, the following contingency planning guidance will apply.

a. The Assistant Secretary of Defense/Public Affairs will be responsible for specific instructions to all commands concerning initial and follow-on public information releases relating to this operation.

b. An initial public information release will be made by the OASD/PA in Washington at _____ hours, 13 October 1969. This release will be made in a routine manner normal for announcements concerning joint exercises. Essential elements of the release will include the following:

"The Defense Department announced today that elements of its unified and specified commands in selected areas world-wide are scheduled to begin a series of operational and logistical exercises on 13 October 1969. These exercises are designed to test the current military readiness of U.S. forces. The exercises will be terminated when readiness test objectives have been satisfied."

c. Participating commands will prepare similar public information announcements to be used in answer to local press



query that may be generated after the national release. These local releases in response to query will emphasize that visible activities are simply part of the world-wide test of current military readiness. Any significant departure from the text of the national release will not repeat not be made until cleared and authorized by OASD/PA.



National Security Archive,
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2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu