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HISTORY OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (U)
JULY-DECEMBER 1966

SANITIZED HISTORY OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
JULY-DECEMBER 1966,
HISTORICAL STUDY NO. 104, VOLUME 1
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NARRATIVE

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HISTORY & RESEARCH DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
October 1967

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M (S) The mission of both the old and new plans was substantially the same, with only the underlined section being added to the latter:

M (S) To establish emergency succession of the Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command, to insure continuous execution and direction of vital SAC EWO functions.

Two situations were visualized under which alternate/succession requirements would exist, with the addition between the previous plan and the new one being underlined:

M (S) Condition Alfa - When Headquarters SAC has been destroyed and this fact confirmed through visual or radar inspection by the Airborne Command Post or when specific communications with SAC Headquarters have been lost. This condition requires immediate reaction by a responsible senior officer, acting as CINCSAC Airborne, in order to enhance survivability of the SAC force. This condition would be of relatively short duration.

M (S) Condition Bravo - When it has been positively determined that the command of SAC units and direction of SAC EWO forces cannot emanate from General Ryan, CINCSAC, or Lt Gen Nazarro, the Vice CINCSAC and initial emergency actions required for survival of the SAC force have been completed. This condition permits extensive and time consuming efforts prior to succession of Command.

M (S) If Condition Alfa existed, i.e., loss of communications and/or knowledge of destruction of the headquarters, the Airborne Emergency Action Officer (AEAO) would carry out emergency actions for survival of the strategic force by (1) placing the alert forces in minimum reaction posture, (2) launching the force under positive control, or (3) directing execution of the force. In this situation the Alternate AEAO* would be the second in succession of command. Once such emergency

* (S) The Alternate AEAO was to be a General Officer airborne with the 2AF AUXCP at DEFGON Two.

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actions were completed, steps would be taken to determine the succession of command through ascertaining the availability of the numbered air force commanders, with the most senior commander available assuming command. After that the precedence would follow that established by the Air Force regulations concerning precedence.*

M (S) Under Condition Bravo the numbered air force (NAF) Commanders would take command upon determination that either CINCOSAC or VCINCOSAC were no longer in circumstances that permitted them to issue orders, with seniority being the determining factor. They would then have at their disposal the airborne command post. Loss of these three Commanders would then necessitate following the Air Force regulation on precedence, as in Condition Alfa.**

M (S) As mentioned earlier there were seven annexes to the 1 July 1966 plan, as opposed to one for the earlier issue. Annex "A" dealt with the actions required under the various alert situations and with succession of command. The new ones, were lettered B through G, and outlined the requirements and responsibilities for specific functions.

* (U) AFR 35-54, "Rank, Precedence, and Command,"

** (S) In either Condition, Alfa or Bravo, other military commands were to be notified of the change if the succession of commanders was necessary. This included the National Military Command Center; Air Force Command Post; ANMCC, Fort Ritchie, Maryland; Alternate Chief of Staff, USAF (REAR), Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Other ZI Numbered Air Force and Overseas Air Division Commanders; Commanders of all advanced command elements of SAC; all USAF Major Commands, All JCS Commanders, Unified and Specified Commands; JCC - Europe and JCC - Far East.

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