

April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: General Norstad's visit to [redacted] on 29 March 1961

1. [redacted] General Norstad was briefed by Commodore [redacted] on the organization of TWOATAF and the chain of command from the TWOATAF/NORTHAG JCOC through the TOC to the Wings. He made a point of the fact that this was a NATO channel (rather than national) through which all alert messages would be passed.

2. In reviewing the status of the [redacted] the following information was given:

a. Serviceability rates:

- 1960 - 81% (average)
- 1961 - (through March) - 85 2/3% (average)

b. Reaction time (without warning):

- [redacted] Squadron - 18 aircraft airborne in 5 1/2 hours
- SQUADRON (a conventional unit) - 18 aircraft airborne in 3 1/4 hours.

c. Range:

- low-low-low profile - 317 nautical miles;
- low-low-high profile - East of Warsaw

d. Dispersal and hardening:

- (1) Wing Ops is to be moved 10 Kilometers away on 11 Apr.
- (2) With sufficient warning, [redacted] Squadron will be dispersed [redacted] 20 kilometers distance.

(3) The maintenance and air base squadrons will soon have the capability of moving between 5 and 10 kilometers away upon declaration of an alert.

5

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TOP SECRET CONTROL

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Major [redacted] USAF, Commander of the U.S. Custodial
Duty [redacted] at the [redacted]

The size of his detachment is 5 officers and 16 airmen.

He is entirely dependent upon the Base for his [redacted].
[redacted] Any U.S.

However, the [redacted]

[redacted]. He carries this
in an envelope encased in a plastic wrapper which prevents excessive wear
and which will make immediately obvious any attempt at opening it. He
retains this envelope on his person at all times. When his duty shift ends,
the envelope is passed to the next Custodial Duty Officer, so that it never
leaves the QRA area. The envelope cannot be opened except [redacted]

c. [redacted] control access to the Type C area
(where weapons are stored), and [redacted] control access to the QRA
Dispersal. However, even in the Dispersal, [redacted] personnel control
the immediate area in which the weapons are located, whether they be
stored [redacted]

d. Access to the Type C area and to the QRA Dispersal [redacted]
[redacted]. Within the QRA Dispersal, the [redacted] guard
will allow only the [redacted] into the area he controls
under no condition is an unaccompanied individual permitted in this area.
The [redacted] must be accompanied by the [redacted].

5. General Norstad commented that it might be desirable to have
[redacted] but that this clearly was not
possible in all cases. He thought, however, that it might be possible to
provide [redacted] COMTWOATAF
[redacted] explained that in fact [redacted] already existed; since the [redacted]
[redacted] were different, [redacted]

6. General Norstad would also like those present to give some
thought to establishing a check on the [redacted]
[redacted], so that a double check would be mandatory
on each person issuing a command. He noted that General Moore and
General Johnson were keeping an eye on him at SHAPE. He stated that

...the military will be ... the composition of ... would under the system ...

1. General Norstad was accompanied to the QRA Dispersal at [redacted] by Major General Spicer, CG Seventeenth Air Force, and General Smith, COMFOURATAF.

2. Entry into this area is [redacted]. General Spicer [redacted].

3. When General Norstad asked the [redacted] how he received an alert message and what he did upon receipt, he replied as follows:

a. The [redacted] gets [redacted] from Seventh Air Force COC. He then calls to [redacted].

b.

4. A well-marked area around the aircraft is guarded by a sentry. The aircraft is armed and has the auxiliary starting equipment connected.

[REDACTED]

Access to the ORA
is controlled by heavy metal gates, guarded by security personnel.
These gates are set in concrete and will be opened only when

6. In response to General Norstad's queries, arming of weapons requires the following number of people:

a.

b.

7. In his discussion with the squadron personnel, General Norstad emphasized that "Nothing is more important in this business than complete and utter security."

H. F. WILLIAMS
Major USAF
Asst Executive to SACEUR

Secret

5 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: General Norstad's Visit to [Volkel Air Force Base, The Netherlands] on 29 March 1961

1. [Excision] General Norstad was briefed by Commodore [excised words] on the organization of TWOATAF and the chain of command from the TWOATAF/NORTHAG JCOC through the TOC to the Wings. He made a point of the fact that this was a NATO channel (rather than national) through which all alert messages would be sent.

2. In reviewing the status of the [excision] the following information was given:

a. Serviceability rates:

--1960 – 81% average

--1961 – (through March) -85 2/3 % average

b. Reaction time (without warning)

- [Excision] Squadron – 18 aircraft airborne in 5 ½ hours

= [Excision] SQUADRON (a conventional unit) – 18 aircraft airborne in 3 ¼ hours.

c. Range

- low-low-low profile – 317 nautical miles

- low-low-high profile – East of Warsaw

d. Dispersal and hardening:

(1) Wing Ops to be moved 10 Kilometers away on 11 Apr.

(2) With sufficient warning, [excision] Squadron will be dispersed [excision] 20 kilometers distanced.

(3) The maintenance and airbase squadrons will soon have the capability of moving between 5 and 10 kilometers away upon declaration of an alert.

-2-

3. Squadron leader [excised] Commander of [excised] Squadron then briefed General Norstad on [excised] security and control arrangements for the weapons and QRA aircraft. General Norstad noted that as he was primarily interested in how the R-hour message was passed and the security arrangement to prevent unauthorized release of weapons. The following sequence of events was given by Squadron Leader Bosch.

a. The TWOATA JCOC passes [multiple lines excised]

c. There are [excised] guards around the QRA Dispersal and the Type C Storage area. Immediately adjacent to each of these areas is a

[multiple lines excised]

d. The QRA Dispersal is surrounded by

[multiple lines excised]

e. The arming of the weapons is effected by [excised phrases]. Until this has been done, the bomb is not armed nor can, it be released from the aircraft.

f. In an alert, aircraft other than those on QRA are loaded in an area (Yankee area) near the Type C storage area. In the event of a long period of alert, those aircraft would be moved to an adjacent area (called Orange area) which would serve as a supplementary QRA dispersal.

-3-

4. Major Desreslers, USAF, Commander of the U.S. Custodial Unit, then took over the briefing:

a. The size of his detachment is 5 officers and 46 airmen.

b. He is entirely dependent upon the Base for his [excised phrases]. Any U.S. [excised phrase]. However, the [excised phrases]. He carries this in an envelope encased in a plastic wrapper which prevents excessive wear and which will make

immediately obvious any attempt at opening it. When his duty shift ends, the envelope is passed to the next Custodial Duty Officer, so that it never leaves the QRA area. This enveloped cannot be separate except [excised phrases].

c. [Excised words] control access to the Type C area (where weapons are stored), and [excised words] control access to the QRA Dispersals. Moreover, even in the Dispersal, [excised word] personnel [indistinct word] the immediate area in which the weapons are located, whether they be stowed [excised phrase].

d. Access to the Type C area and to the QRA Dispersal [excised words] will allow only the [excised words] into the area because [?] under no condition is an unaccompanied individual permitted in this area the [excised word] must be accompanied by the [excised word].

5. General Norstad commented that it might be desirable to have [excised phrases/sentences], but that this clearly was not possible in all cases. He thought, however, that it might be possible to provide [excised phrases]. COMTWOATAF explained that in fact [excised words] already existed since the [excised words] were different [excised words].

6. General Norstad would also like those present to give some thought to establishing a check on the [excised words], so that a double check would be mandatory on each person issuing a command. He noted that General Moore and General Johnson were keeping an eye on him at SHAPE. He stated that

-4=

we were faced with an important political problem in this matter of command control. We must have a double check everywhere and we in the military must do it ourselves. If we do not our political masters will do it for us and this might involve the imposition of delays which would render the system ineffective.

[Excised phrase]

1. General Norstad was accompanied to the QRA Dispersal [excision] by Major General Spicer, CG Seventeenth Air Force, and General Smith, COMFOURATAF.
2. Entry into this area is [excised phrase], General Spicer [excised phrase]

3. When General Norstad asked the [excised phrases] how he received an alert message, and what was done upon receipt, he replied as follows:
 - a. The [excised phrase] gets [excised words] from Seventh Air Force COC. He then calls us [excised phrases]
 - b. [Substantial excision]
4. A well-marked area around the aircraft is guarded by a sentry. The aircraft is armed and has the auxiliary starting equipment connected [Excised paragraph]

=5-

5. [Excised sentences]. Access to the QRA area is controlled by heavy metal gates, guarded by security personnel. These gates are set in concrete and will be opened only when [excisions].
6. In response to General Norstad's queries, arming of weapons requires the following number of people:
 - a. [Excisions]
 - b. [Excisions]
7. In his discussion with the squadron personnel, General Norstad emphasized that "Nothing is more important in this business than complete and [indistinct word] security.'

H.F. Williams

Major UAF

Asst Executive to SACEUR