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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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13 December 1978

released

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Requirement for Survivable and Endurant Strategic Communications (U)

1. (U) The statement of requirement in the Appendix for a two-way survivable and endurant strategic communications capability has been approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The needs of the unified and specified commands have been considered in its preparation.

[redacted]

3. (U) Without attachment, this memorandum is downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

James E. Dalton

JAMES E. DALTON
Major General, USAF
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Attachment

CLASSIFIED BY DIRECTOR, J-3
DECLASSIFY ON 1 DECEMBER 1984

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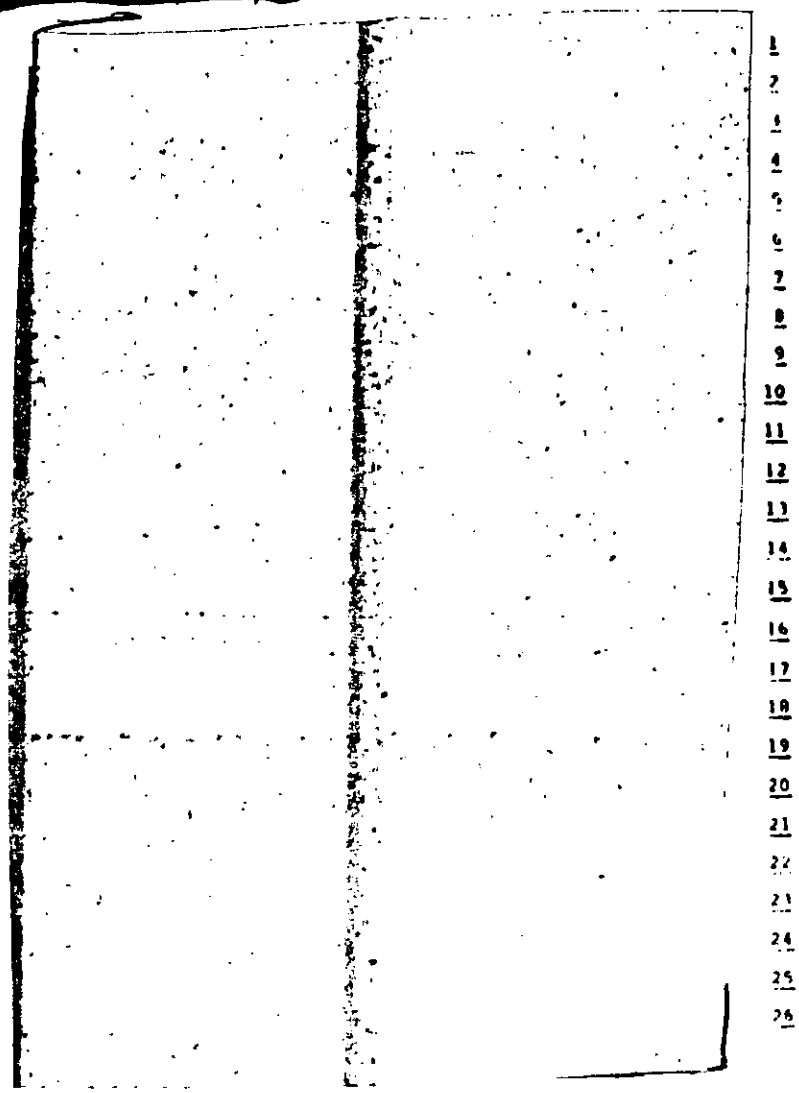

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APPENDIX

REQUIREMENT FOR SURVIVABLE AND
ENDURANT STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS (U)

SECTION I

STATEMENT OF NEED

1. [redacted] Purpose. The mission of the WWMCCS is to provide the NCA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff with information and support necessary to assist them in the national decision-making process and to direct US military efforts. The overall mission requires the capability to receive and transmit information accurately and responsively.

[redacted] Communications capabilities surviving under these circumstances must be credible, flexible, responsive, and secure. [redacted]

2. [redacted] Introduction. The primary utility of the survivable communications capability will be during and immediately following a massive nuclear attack. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

3. ([redacted]) Background

a. ([redacted]) Postures. The generic survivable communications support postures described below provide a reference for defining criteria for communications support systems:

(1) [redacted] General Nuclear War Posture. Defines the level of system survivability, endurance, capacity, credibility, flexibility, and responsiveness required to provide effective communications support of general nuclear war. The general nuclear war support posture does not need to be functional under routine, noncrisis conditions: [redacted]

(2) (U) Crisis Support Posture. Defines the level of system availability, reliability, and responsiveness required to insure communications effectiveness under conditions of significant electronic jamming or other disruption of normally used communications.

b. (U) The survivable communications resources must be responsive to the needs of the NCA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the commanders of the unified and specified commands. Access to resources by other authorized users will be controlled and prioritized consistent with the availability of resources. Operational control of the survivable communications resources may transition to an operating element of the NMCS under general nuclear war or crisis support postures.

[redacted]

c. [redacted] Continuity of communications support through all levels of conflict and communications system utilization should be maximized. [redacted] The communications needs in support of general nuclear war establish the upper limit on and determine the criteria for systems. Priority access must be provided to insure information is processed in order of importance. [redacted] The survivable communications capability must be reliable and available to the extent that this key information can be transmitted without delay. A sufficiently detailed record copy is needed to facilitate manual (non-ADP) operations.

[redacted]

SECTION II

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (U)

4. [redacted] Functional Requirements and Operational Concept

a. [redacted] Survivable and Endurant Communications Support Functions. Mission functions which may be supported by a two-way survivable and endurant communications capability are scenario dependent. [redacted] Vital communications to theater nuclear forces are not addressed here, but may be supported by the same resources. The communications functions described are related to worldwide strategic force management. Support in a crisis involving communications disruption is not a primary design requirement.

b. [redacted] Survivable and Endurant Communications Support of the Strategic Forces. The NCA, through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the commanders of the unified and specified commands require two-way survivable and endurant communications [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Two-way conferencing voice communications will be used between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of the unified and specified commands to exchange information necessary to support decisionmaking. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will use a two-way voice communications link with the NCA to provide information, make recommendations, and receive instructions. Additional communications from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to unified and specified command headquarters and direct to strategic forces are required to execute or terminate actions by those forces. A two-way communications capability between strategic nuclear-capable commanders and their forces could be used to transmit additional instructions and receive status reports and could be monitored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These functions can be categorized as follows: (1) information exchange, (2) decisionmaking, (3) force direction and control, and (4) strategic force support and management.

(1) [redacted] Information Exchange. This function is required to provide conferencing communications between the commanders of the unified and specified commands and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to support the development of recommendations to the NCA and to implement subsequent NCA decisions. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(2) [redacted] Decisionmaking. This function is required to provide situation information, status of forces, and recommendations to the NCA from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

[redacted]

[redacted]

(4) [redacted] Strategic Force Support and Management. A two-way [redacted] communications capability is required between the commanders of the unified and specified commands and their forces for the purpose of issuing instructions and obtaining force status and situation reports. [redacted] The Joint Chiefs of Staff may use these reports to keep generally abreast of the situation and to flag items for the NCA. [redacted]

c. [redacted] Two-Way Survivable and Endurant Communications Support of Strategic Force Replanning and Repositioning [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(3) Record/voice two-way communications between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commander of an appropriate unified or specified command are required to provide directions for personnel or supply movement and to direct transportation arrangements as necessary. Two-way record/voice communications may be used by the appropriate commander and his ground, afloat, and airborne forces to coordinate and accomplish the required repositioning.

d. [redacted] Survivable Communications System Support of Crisis Involving Communications Disruption. A survivable communications capability designed to operate in the environment of a general nuclear war has an inherent

[redacted]

utility in other scenarios.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the appropriate commanders of the unified and specified commands will use the survivable communications capability to receive situation reports from remote or joint task force commanders or on-scene personnel in crisis or contingency situations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will provide instructions to the appropriate commander and, in some cases, directly to the commander on the scene. The theater commander will coordinate the forces under his command with the activity of the forces at the crisis location.

(1) Situation Reporting. Situation and status of forces information and recommendations will be provided to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the commander on the scene, and by other appropriate military commanders in response to questions from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and developments at the scene.