NLE MR Cass No	9-341	
Document No.	1 TOP SECRET	This document conficts of 23 page
•		Copy Ho
Downwood in Sector	Please ravious	

The rama:



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH

THE PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION DATED MAY 22, 1957

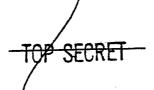
DECLASSIFIED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL, EXECUTIVE ORDER 12958, SECTION 5.4(b)(3)

DECLASSIFICATION DATE: April 4, 2001 WB

(Revised as of 28 January 1959)

- JOP SECRET

Electrostatic reproduction made for preservation purposes by the Eisenhower Library for replacement of a deteriorating manuscript item.



CONTENTS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH

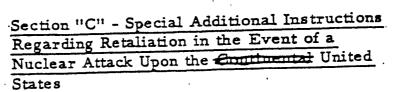
THE PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION DATED MAY 22, 1957

Paragraph	Title
	BASIC INSTRUCTIONS
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	Authority Purpose Definitions Authorized Expenditures Operational Limitations Responsibilities and Procedures Effective Date
1. 2. 3.	Section "A" - Special Additional Instructions for the Defense of the United States, its Territories and Possessions Against Attack by Air Purpose Procedure Authorizing Commanders
	Section "B" - Special Additional Instructions for the Defense of the United States, its Territories and Possessions Against Attack by Sea and For the Defense of United States Forces
1. 2. 3. 4.	Purpose Definition Engagement Operational Limitations Authorizing Commanders



Paragraph

Title

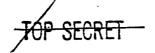




1.	Purpose
2.	Policy
3.	Department of Defense Procedure and
	Responsibilities
4.	Operational Limitations
5.	Authorizing Commanders

3
(Deletion app.byPresident-ltr.ll/2/59 to Deputy Sec.Def.)

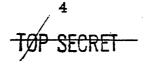




BASIC INSTRUCTIONS



- 1. AUTHORITY. These instructions are issued pursuant to paragraph 4 of the President's "Authorization for the Expenditure of Nuclear Weapons" dated May 22, 1957.
- 2. PURPOSE. These instructions establish policies in the implementation of the Presidential Authorization.
- 3. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>. The following definitions are established for the purpose of these instructions:
 - <u>a</u>. The term "nuclear weapons" includes all types of weapons and devices which release atomic energy.
 - b. The term "United States, its Territories and Possessions" includes the Canal Zone.
 - c. The term "Authorizing Commander" is a commander empowered to expend nuclear weapons pursuant to subparagraph 5c of the Presidential "Authorization for the Expenditure of Nuclear Weapons."
 - d. The term "major U.S. forces" refers to those organized units of U.S. military forces comprising the essential operational military strength of the United States, including the numbered field armies, fleets, and air forces and (see subparagraph 6a below) the forces of Authorizing Commanders.



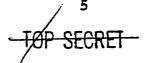


- e. The term "attack" refers to a major hostile assault of such magnitude and against such areas or forces as to constitute an immediate and vital military threat to the security of the United States or to major U.S. forces, as defined above.
- f. The terms "expend", "expending", and "expenditure" refer to the firing or launching and detonation of a nuclear weapon.
- g. The terms "foreign territory" and "territory of foreign friendly countries" include the territorial waters and air space thereof.
- h. The term "international waters" includes the air space above.
- 4. AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES. When the urgency of
- 4. Authorized Expenditures. When the urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead, the Armed Forces of the United States are authorized by the President to expend nuclear weapons in the following circumstances in conformity with these instructions:

instructions:

2. For the defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions:

(Chg.approved by President-ltr.11/2/59 to Deputy Sec.Def.)



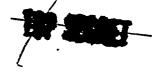
Electrostatic reproduction made for preservation purposes by the Eisenhower Library for replacement



- (1) In the United States, its Territories and possessions, and in coastal air defense identification zones, against attack by air (Special Additional Instructions in Section "A" below).
- (2) In the United States, its Territories and possessions, and in international waters adjacent thereto as defined in Section "B", against attack by sea (Special Additional Instructions in Section "B" below).
- (3) In the territory of friendly foreign countries near the United States, its Territories and possessions, subject to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned, against attack by air (Special Additional Instructions in Section "A" below).
- <u>b.</u> For the defense of United States forces in foreign territory and in international waters against Sino-Soviet Bloc attacking forces, subject to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned (Special Additional Instructions in Section "B" below).
- c. In the event of nuclear attack upon the Continents United States, in retaliation against the enemy identified as

(Deletion app.by Preisent - ltr.ll/2/59 to Sec.Gates)



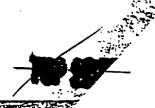


responsible for the attack, subject in the case of retaliation from friendly foreign territory to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned - (Special Additional Instructions in Section "C" below).

5. OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS. Because of the serious international implications of the use of nuclear weapons by U. S. military forces, it is essential that particularly strict command control and supervision be exercised, and that the use of nuclear weapons be limited to circumstances of grave necessity. authority to expend nuclear weapons in the event urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead, is an emergency measure necessitated by recognition of the fact that communications may be disrupted by the attack. It is mandatory to insure that such authority is not assumed through accident or misinformation. The authorization to expend nuclear weapons should be regarded as an authorization effective only until it is possible, in light of time and circumstances, to communicate with the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead. In the expenditure of nuclear weapons pursuant to these instructions,

7

(Revised as of May 12, 1960)

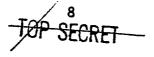


JOP SECF-

the following limitations will be observed:



- a. An Authorizing Commander may expend nuclear weapons only when the urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead.
- b. Under this authorization, Authorizing Commanders may not expend nuclear weapons for defense against minor assault nor against assault upon minor U.S. forces wherein damage inflicted would not constitute an immediate and vital threat to the security of the United States or to major U.S. forces.
- c. Any expenditure of nuclear weapons pursuant to these instructions will be limited to such size and numbers of weapons and to such targets as are necessary. Further, nuclear weapons will be used in the manner best calculated to avoid expanding hostilities and with due regard for the safety of friendly forces and peoples.
- d. Nothing in these instructions shall be construed as preventing any responsible commander from taking such actions as may be necessary to defend his command, with the exception that the expenditure of nuclear weapons may be authorized







only by Authorizing Commanders, utilizing the criteria and procedures set forth in these instructions."

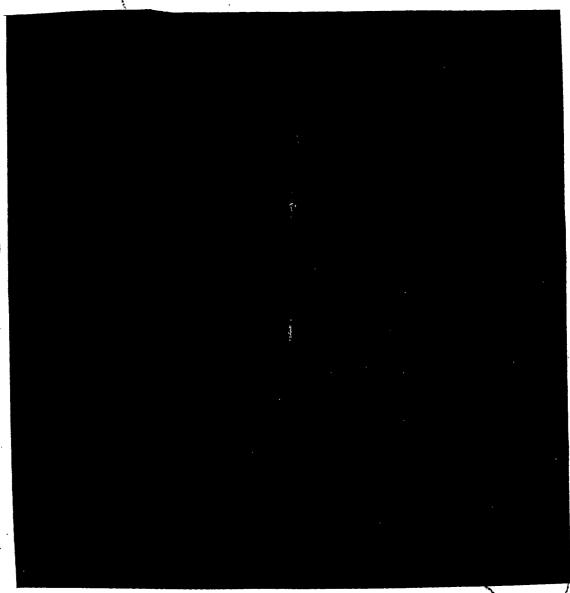
- 6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES. Responsibilities and procedures applicable to the expenditure of nuclear weapons when the urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead, are:
 - a. The Authorizing Commanders are designated in the appropriate Sections below for the purpose set forth therein. In addition, commanders of joint task forces and of other commands, equivalent in stature to the numbered forces, as specifically approved by the President and the Secretary of Defense, may from time to time be designated as Authorizing Commanders by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

 Further, in regard to the air defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions, these instructions do not limit the authority granted to operational commanders pursuant to the "Authorization for the Expenditure of Atomic Weapons in Air Defense: approved by the President on 18 April 1956 and the "Policy Statement on Interception and Engagement of Hostile Aircraft", approved 24 September 1952, which were

Electrostatic reproduction made for preservation purposes by the Eisenhower Library for replacement of a deteriorating manuscript item.



Empagement Instructions and Procedures", dated 7 Decem1956. Previous authorizations to expend atomic weapons in
accordance with the revised Interception and Engagement
Instructions and Procedures dated December 7, 1956 (attached hereto as Appendix A) are continued in full force and effect.



E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)

EF ... po as as

E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4 (b)(s.)

- f. An Authorizing Commander expending nuclear weapons pursuant to these instructions shall immediately report his action to the President through the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense and advise directly all commanders of commands established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff utilizing the most expeditious means available.
- g. Upon approval by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State and the President, separate authorizing instructions will be transmitted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Authorizing Commanders designated herein and may be disseminated to

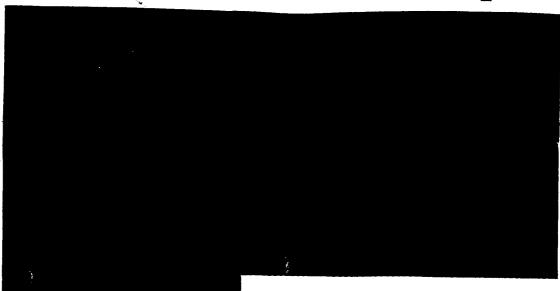
TOP SECRET





subordinate commanders only in those cases where such subordinate commanders have been designated as Authorizing Commanders pursuant to the procedures of paragraph 6a above.

E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)



The existence of these instructions

and the provisions thereof are TOP SECRET classified information and must be safeguarded accordingly. No authority exists short of the President to modify this classification or make disclosures inconsistent therewith. In addition to the classification of TOP SECRET, the fact of the existence of these instructions will be limited to a highly restricted group of people.

ED. 12958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)

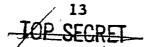


- h. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will keep the Authorizing Commanders informed of the current status of agreements or understandings with friendly foreign countries regarding the expenditure of nuclear weapons in their respective territories.
- i. The expenditure of nuclear weapons over Canada will be in accordance with the terms of the interim agreement between the governments of Canada and the United States which was forwarded to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the Secretary of Defense on 16 March 1957. The current agreement is effective until 1 July 1959. Any expenditure after 1 July 1959 will be in accordance with then existing agreements.
- 7. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE.</u> These instructions are effective upon receipt.

Section "A"

Special Additional Instructions for the Defense of the United States, its Territories and Possessions Against Attack by Air

- 1. PURPOSE. These special instructions provide additional guidance applicable to the expenditure of nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions, against attack by air:
 - a. In the United States, its Territories and possessions





and in the coastal air defense identification zones (ADIZ's).

b. In the territory of friendly foreign countries near the United States, its Territories and possessions, subject to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned.

2. PROCEDURE.

- a. The expenditure of nuclear weapons in the United

 States, its Territories and possessions and in the coastal air

 defense identification zones (ADIZ's) will be in accordance

 with the revised "Interception and Engagement Instructions

 and Procedures", dated 7 December 1956, which are attached

 hereto as Appendix "A" and are continued in full force and effect.
- <u>b.</u> The expenditure of nuclear weapons in the territory of friendly foreign countries near the United States, its Territories and possessions will be subject to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned and will be in accordance, as closely as the situation permits, with the procedures set forth in the revised "Interception and Engagement Instructions and Procedures", dated 7 December 1956, or such other rules as are applicable to the areas concerned.



- c. As regards the expenditure of nuclear weapons in the air space above international waters outside of the coastal air defense identification zones for the defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions against attack by air, the provisions in Section "B" below will apply.
- 3. AUTHORIZING COMMANDERS. Authorizing Commanders for the purposes set forth in paragraph la of this Section are those military commanders authorized to declare aircraft as "hostile" pursuant to the revised "Interception and Engagement Instructions and Procedures", dated 7 December 1956. Authorizing Commanders for the purposes set forth in paragraph 1b above will be designated in subsequent specific instructions.

Section "B"

Special Additional Instructions for the Defense of the United States, its Territories and Possessions Against Attack by Sea and for the Defense of United States Forces in Foreign Territory and in International Waters Against Sino-Soviet Bloc Attacking Forces

- 1. PURPOSE. These special instructions provide additional guidance applicable to the expenditure of nuclear weapons:
 - a. In the United States, its Territories and possessions and in international waters adjacent thereto, as defined herein, for the defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions, against attack by sea.

- b. For the defense of the United States forces in foreign territory and in international waters, against Sino-Soviet Bloc attacking forces, subject to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned.
- 2. <u>DEFINITION</u>. The following definition is established for the purpose of these instructions:

The term "international waters adjacent thereto", as used in subparagraph <u>la</u> above, is defined to include all international waters and the air space above within effective enemy striking range of the United States, its Territories and possessions.

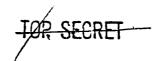
- 3. ENGAGEMENT. When the urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead, any decision to expend nuclear weapons against attacking forces is the responsibility of the Authorizing Commander in consonance with the criteria set forth in these instructions.
 - <u>a</u>. In amplification of these criteria, the situations below may be considered examples of an attack, as defined in these instructions:

TOP SECRET





- (1) A submarine or surface craft engages in launching or controlling missiles against the United States, its Territories and possessions.
- (2) A Sino-Soviet Bloc force engages in launching or controlling missiles, bombing, air-to-air attack, or strafing attack against a major U.S. force in international waters or in foreign territory.
- (3) Sino-Soviet Bloc ground, paratroop or other forces make a major assault and thereby effect a significant penetration of an area occupied by major U.S. forces in foreign territory with the evident intention of rendering them militarily ineffective or of continuing the advance.
- <u>b.</u> The above list of situations is not all inclusive and does not preclude expenditure of nuclear weapons against assaulting Sino-Soviet Bloc forces under other situations consonant with the criteria set forth in these instructions.
- c. Unidentified submarines or aircraft which are engaged in an attack as defined in these instructions may be assumed to be Sino-Soviet Bloc attacking forces.
- d. In defending against attack by air, commanders shall conform as closely as the situation permits to the procedures





set forth in the revised "Interception and Engagement
Instructions and Procedures", dated 7 December 1956, or
such other rules which are applicable to the areas concerned.

4. OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS.

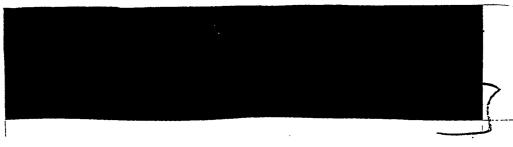
a. When the urgency of time and circumstances clearly does not permit a specific decision by the President:

(1) An Authorizing Commander, as designated in subparagraph 5a below and as contemplated in subparagraph 5b below, may order the expenditure of nuclear weapons in international waters and in foreign territory

E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)

understandings, if any, with the government (except for a government involved in attack on U.S. forces) exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned, to eliminate the local threat of Sino-Soviet Bloc forces engaging in an attack against United States forces, when in his judgment this is vital to the security of his forces.

E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)





E.O. 12 958 Sec. 3.4(b)(5)



b. Authorizing Commanders will bear in mind that the above authority to expend nuclear weapons is an emergency measure necessitated by recognition of the fact that communications may be disrupted by the attack. It is mandatory to insure that such authority is not assumed through accident or misinformation. The authorization to expend nuclear weapons should be regarded as an authorization effective only until it is possible, in light of time and circumstances, to communicate with the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead.

5. AUTHORIZING COMMANDERS

a. Authorizing Commanders for the purposes set forth in this section are: The Commander in Chief, U.S. - Europe; The Commander in Chief, Alaska; The Commander in Chief, Caribbean; The Commander in Chief, Atlantic; The Commander

in-Chief, Continental Air Defense; The Commander in Chief,
Pacific; The Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command.
The Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic
and Mediterranean (CINCNELM) will be an Authorizing Commander for the purposes set forth in this section only when he
has been directed to conduct operations as a Specified Commander by the President through the Secretary of Defense.
This limitation does not preclude his designation as an
Authorizing Commander by CINCEUR in accordance with
paragraph 5b below

b. In addition, commanders of numbered field armies, fleets, and air forces, and commanders of Joint Task forces and of other commands equivalent in stature to the numbered forces may from time to time be designated as Authorizing Commanders by recommendation of a Specified or Unified Commander to the Joint Chiefs of Staff or by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the President in each such instance.

Section "C"

Special Additional Instructions Regarding Retaliation in the Event of a Nuclear Attack Upon the Gontinental United States

I. PURPOSE. These special instructions provide additional guidance applicable to the expenditure of nuclear weapons in the event (Deletion app.by President 11/2/500 see ltr.to Sec.Gates)

Electrostatic reproduction made for preservation purposes by the



of a nuclear attack upon the United States in retaliation against the enemy identified as responsible for the attack, subject, in the case of retaliation from friendly foreign territory, to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned.

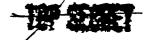
United States, it is assumed that the President would have approximately the same information as the Department of Defense regarding the strength and character of the attack and the identity of the nation launching it. Retaliation for such attack, therefore, will be on order of the President, except in circumstances where immediate communications have become impossible between the President and responsible officials of the Department of Defense. In such circumstances, the Secretary of Defense or the next official in the chain of responsibility, acting in the name of the Secretary of Defense, is authorized to expend nuclear weapons in retaliation against the enemy identified as responsible for the attack, subject, in the case of retaliation from friendly foreign territory, to applicable agreements or understandings, if any, with the government exercising sovereignty over the country or countries concerned.





3. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCEDURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Defense such orders will be issued through command channels by the Secretary of Defense or by the next official in the chain of responsibility, acting in the name of the Secretary.
- b. In the event that a nuclear attack has in fact occurred, as authenticated through prescribed procedures as approved by the President, on the Continental United States and it is impossible to communicate with the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expenditure of nuclear weapons for retaliatory purposes may be ordered by an Authorizing Commander. Before ordering such an expenditure under this authorization, an Authorizing Commander will adhere to the following conditions:
 - (1) Comply with applicable international agreements or understandings, if any, in expending nuclear weapons for retaliatory purposes from friendly foreign territory.
 - (2) Alert his retaliatory forces to the fact that they may be recalled prior to their arrival in the target area.



- nuclear weapons for retaliatory purposes is an emergency measure necessitated by recognition of the fact that communications may be disrupted by the attack. It is mandatory to insure that such authority is not assumed through accident or misinformation. The authorization for expenditure of nuclear weapons for retaliatory purposes should be regarded as an authorization effective only until it is possible, in light of time and circumstances to communicate with the President, or other person empowered to act in his stead.
- 5. AUTHORIZING COMMANDERS. The Authorizing Commanders for the purpose set forth in this Section and approved by the President are listed below:
 - a. The Commander in Chief, Atlantic.
 - b. The U.S. Commander in Chief, Europe.
 - c. The Commander in Chief, Pacific.
 - d. The Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command.
 - e. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces,

 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, will be an Authorizing

 Commander for the purposes set forth in this section only

 when he has been directed to conduct operations as a Specified

Commander by the President through the Secretary of Defense.