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COPY NO. 24

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

~~NATO
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Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED

SGM-1194-51

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

27 July 1951

By JACOARE Date 8-10-9-9

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Supreme Allied Commander Europe
The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (when appointed)

SUBJECT: Aircraft Attrition Rates

1. The Standing Group have had under consideration the means whereby a comprehensive assessment might be made of the reserve aircraft necessary to support the Medium Term Defense Plan. In order to produce such an assessment it is clear that the attrition rates applicable to different commands and the categories of aircraft to be utilized by those commands must be computed as a matter of priority.

2. It is considered that such a study must essentially be based on command operational plans and agreed intelligence appreciations and be carried out within the atmosphere of such commands. It is, however, fully realized that the experts and statistics on this subject are centered in the service ministries of the major nations.

3. It is considered that any calculation of attrition rates must be undertaken in two stages. Primarily there must be policy agreement on the broad assumptions to be used as a basis for a technical study and subsequently the detailed technical calculations which would arrive at the actual attrition rates. The committee charged with the first task should comprise members of the air staffs, advised as necessary by technical experts, and the body charged with the second task would comprise technical experts only.

4. The initial policy study will undoubtedly clear the way for the technical experts to undertake their study; however, there will emerge from time to time additional policy matters upon which the technical body will require guidance and which could not have been foreseen at the time the initial policy study was completed. It would therefore appear advantageous that the technical committee should carry out their work in close proximity to the policy-making committee so that they may avail themselves of such day-to-day consultations as may be necessary. Consequently, the location of the policy group should dictate the location of the technical body.

5. The Standing Group, therefore, as a first step in preparing NATO-wide attrition rates, invite SACEUR and SACLANT (when appointed) to individually:

a. Establish an air staff policy committee to define the basic assumptions upon which a technical body could base their study.

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b. Establish a subsidiary technical body, augmented by attached experts from the U.S., France, and U.K. to calculate the actual attrition rates for their command.

6. The U.S., France, and U.K. are being invited to attach technical experts to the SHAPE Committee for the period of study.

7. The U.S., France, and U.K. will be invited to attach technical experts to the SACLANT Committee, for the period of study, when SACLANT is appointed.

8. In establishing the basic assumptions which are to be used by the technical committee, the air staff committee should be guided by:

D.C. 6/1	Strategic Concept for the Defense of the North Atlantic Area.
M.C. 14	Strategic Guidance for North Atlantic Regional Planning.
S.G. 126/2	Intelligence Guidance for SHAPE.

9. On completion of the detailed attrition rates study you are requested to forward them to the Standing Group for approval and incorporation in the NATO-wide assessment.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

C. H. Donnelly
C. H. DONNELLY
Colonel, USA
Senior Secretary

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