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S.G. 188

20 February 1952

Pages 1 - 4, incl.

REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING TEAM

to the
STANDING GROUP

on

WARTIME AIRCREW ATTRITION RATES

Reference: S.G. 90/3

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Per Authority IMSM-130-96

THE PROBLEM

By LATHY Date 28 Jul 52

1. To establish the machinery for calculating wartime aircrew attrition rates.

BACKGROUND

2. In reference above [S.G. 90/3] the Standing Group established machinery at command level for the calculation of rates of attrition of combat aircraft as a basis for calculating war reserves.

3. These studies are now being pursued by SHAPE (relative to that command) and they should be completed by March/April 1952.

DISCUSSION

4. In order that national and NATO aircrew training programs may be planned and that national personnel policies may be established, it is necessary to arrive at agreed NATO figures for wartime aircrew attrition rates.

5. One of the prime factors in such calculations will be the aircraft attrition rate figures which are established in consequence of the action taken in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

6. Furthermore, it is considered that aircrew attrition rates will also be profoundly affected by the operating conditions in the theatre concerned, by the role of aircraft flown and by personnel policies.

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7. While it is agreed that the experts and statistics on this subject are centered in the service ministries, the majority of the main factors can only be established at the main NATO commands, based on aircraft attrition rates, theatre operational plans and intelligence appreciations.

8. The whole of such study would be closely tied to the current aircraft attrition rate study for which a policy committee and a technical sub-committee are now working (relative to SHAPE). It is therefore considered that these two committees appropriately augmented or re-constituted, could undertake the supplementary study of wartime aircrew attrition rates after completion of their present task. This should serve to speed up the process considerably.

CONCLUSIONS

9. It is concluded that:-

a. It is necessary to undertake a study of wartime aircrew attrition rates as soon as possible;

b. Such a study should be undertaken, in the first instance, by commands;

c. SHAPE should be invited to augment or re-constitute the policy committee and technical sub-committee now employed on aircraft attrition rates and charge them with the supplementary study of wartime aircrew attrition rates after completion of their current study;

d. SACLANC be invited to carry out a similar study after he completes the study of aircraft attrition rates relative to his command;

e. United States, France and the United Kingdom should be invited to support these studies with technical experts on aircrew attrition rates in a similar manner to the support they have given to the aircraft attrition studies.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the Standing Group:-
 - a. Approve the conclusions of this paper;
 - b. Despatch the memorandum at Enclosure to SACEUR and SACLANT;
 - c. Circulate this report to the Military Representatives Committee for their information.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Supreme Allied Commander Europe
Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic

SUBJECT: Wartime Aircrew Attrition Rates

1. The Standing Group have had under consideration the means whereby a comprehensive assessment might be made of wartime aircrew attrition rates.

2. It is considered that one of the prime factors in such a study will be the NATO aircraft attrition rates finally established (S.G. 90/3 refers), together with various other factors such as operating conditions in each theatre, the role of aircraft flown and national personnel policies.

3. The Standing Group therefore invites SHAPE and SACLANT, after completion of the studies called for in S.G. 90/3, to re-constitute and/or augment the policy and technical committees engaged on the aircraft attrition rate study and charge them with the supplementary study of wartime aircrew attrition rates.

4. The United States, France and the United Kingdom will be invited to support these studies by the services of experts in the same manner as they are now supporting the SHAPE study.

5. On completion of these detailed aircrew attrition rate studies, you are requested to forward them to the Standing Group for approval and incorporation in the NATO-wide assessment.

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