

DIRECTIVE

December 11, 1948

WEAPONS SYSTEMS EVALUATION GROUP

I. ESTABLISHMENT

Recognizing the need for technical and operational evaluation on an inter-service basis, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Research and Development Board, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, hereby establish The Weapons Systems Evaluation Group (hereinafter called "The Group").

II. FUNCTIONS

A. The purpose of the Group is to provide rigorous, unprejudiced and independent analyses and evaluations of present and future weapons systems under probable future combat conditions--prepared by the ablest professional minds, military and civilian, and the most advanced analytical methods that can be brought to bear.

B. The Group shall make comprehensive analyses and evaluations of weapons and weapons systems under projected conditions of war at the request of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or the Research and Development Board, and analyses and evaluations so requested shall take precedence over those initiated by the Group. The findings and conclusions of the Group shall be advisory and not binding on any group or agency of the National Military Establishment.

C. The Group is authorized to obtain from any agency or group within the National Military Establishment such information as it may deem relevant to its studies, and it shall seek the advice of other groups and agencies within and without the National Military Establishment to the maximum extent appropriate. Information on War Plans and other matter with specific high security classification shall be obtained in accordance with established procedure of the agency in possession of the information.

III. ORGANIZATION

A. The head of the Group shall be a Director appointed by the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff (JCS) and the Research and Development Board (RDB) from among the senior officers of the National Military Establishment.

B. There shall be a Research Director who shall be appointed by the Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, the Research and Development Board and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Research Director shall be the chief scientific officer of the Group, and he shall serve as deputy director of the Group. Subject to the general supervision of the Director, he shall supervise and direct the work of the Group.

C. After consulting with the Research Director, the Director shall arrange for the assignment to the Group of such military personnel as he deems necessary, and the appointment of such civilian personnel as he deems necessary.

D. Subject to the provisions of Section IV hereof, the Director shall provide for the internal organization and procedures of the Group.

E. The Director shall prepare, for the approval of the Secretary of Defense, annual budget estimates for the Group, and he shall report annually to the Secretary of Defense, the JCS, and the RDB on the activities of the Group on a date specified by the Secretary of Defense.

F. The Director may recommend to the Secretary of Defense such contractual arrangements for analytical and professional services as he deems necessary from time to time.

IV. PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Prior to accepting requests, the Director will consult with the JCS and the RDB to assure himself that each such request is likely to result in significant findings and conclusions within a reasonable period of time, is acceptable in form and content, and that each task is within the capacity of the Group.

B. After consultation with the parties concerned and subject to Section II hereof, the Director may establish and adjust from time to time the relative priorities of studies undertaken by the Group, provided, however, that serious disagreements may be referred to the Secretary of Defense.

C. The Director shall notify the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Research and Development Board of the initiation of studies, together with the estimated dates of submission of tentative and final reports. The Director shall notify the interested parties of any change in such estimated dates, and he shall furnish progress reports on request.

D. Except where the JCS or the RDB or both are clearly not concerned, the report on each study undertaken by the Group shall be submitted to the said agencies for comments. Formal submission of each report shall be directly to the requesting party.

and shall include any comments received as a result of such submission. Reasonable time for such review shall be provided by the Director in his time schedules.

E. It is expected that, after an initial period of organization and trial, the Group will have proved its worth and will then become a component of JCS. The Group shall therefore be transferred to JCS one year after the date of its authorization, subject however to the provision that RDB may at that time request of JCS a postponement of this transfer in the event that the one year period has been insufficient to have established the Group as an adequately staffed and effectively working organization.

F. The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Group with such personnel and facilities as he may determine to be required by the Group for the performance of its functions.