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MEMORANDUM FOR Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director of Defense Research and Engineering
Assistant Secretaries of Defense
Assistants to the Secretary of Defense
Directors of the Defense Agencies

SUBJECT: FY 73-79 Planning Guidance for Southeast Asia Force and
Activity Levels (U)

The enclosures to this memorandum contain the Southeast Asia Planning Guidance applicable both to planning for the remainder of FY 73 and FY 74, and to the preparation of the FY 75-79 Defense Program. Enclosure 1 is a table of forces and activity levels. Enclosure 2 contains munitions planning assumptions. This guidance supersedes that of March 9, 1972.

The uncertainty of the military situation following the cease-fires in South Vietnam and Laos is reflected in the guidance. Thus, in addition to specifying force and activity levels for U.S. and Allied assets in Southeast Asia, this guidance also addresses capabilities which must be available in order to be able to deploy additional forces and increase activity levels, should that become necessary.

Because of its sensitivity this material should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis.

E.L.R.

Enclosures

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SOUTHEAST ASIA PLANNING GUIDANCE
FORCES AND ACTIVITY LEVELS

| | END FY 73 | END FY 74 | END FY 75 | END FY 76 | END FY 77-78 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <u>U.S. MILITARY FORCES/ACTIVITY LEVELS</u> | | | | | |
| <u>Navy</u> | | | | | |
| Attack Sortie Capability (Sorties/Month) a/ | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,200 | - |
| (Average Monthly Combat Activity Levels) b/ | (1,300) | (1,300) | (1,300) | - | - |
| Attack Carriers (CVA) c/ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| F-3 Aircraft Squadrons d/ | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| <u>Air Force a/</u> | | | | | |
| Attack Sortie Capability (Sorties/Month) f/ | 4,700 | 4,700 | 1,300 | - | - |
| (Average Monthly Combat Activity Levels) b/ | (3,700) | (1,400) | (1,300) | - | - |
| B-52 Capability (Sorties/Month) g/ | 1,000 | 1,000 | 300 | - | - |
| (Average Monthly Combat Activity Levels) h/ | (1,000) | (600) | (300) | - | - |
| Gunship Capability (Sorties/Month) | 400 | 400 | 400 | - | - |
| (Average Monthly Combat Activity Levels) h/ | (400) | (150) | (150) | - | - |
| Fighter/Attack Squadrons | 7 | 7 | 2 | - | - |
| Reconnaissance Aircraft (RF-4C) | 18 | 18 | 18 | - | - |
| Search and Rescue (SAR) Support Aircraft (A-7) | 24 | 24 | 12 | - | - |
| WILD WEASEL Aircraft | 12 | 12 | 12 | - | - |
| <u>U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THAILAND h/</u> | 34.4 | 34.4 | 24.7 | 6.1 | 6.1 |
| <u>SUPPORT OF ALLIES i/ j/</u> | | | | | |
| VNAF Tactical Air (Sorties/Month) | 8,200 | 9,300 | 11,300 | 11,300 | 11,300 |
| VNAF Gunship (Sorties/Month) | 800 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| MLAF Tactical Air (Sorties/Month) | 5,800 | 4,400 | 3,730 | 3,730 | 3,730 |
| MLAF Gunship (Sorties/Month) | 200 | 300 | 200 | 200 | 200 |

- a/ Capability to be available immediately. Through FY 74 the Navy will maintain the capability to fly indefinitely: (1) 2,000 land-based USMC attack sorties per month with two weeks' notice, and (2) 8,400 Navy attack sorties per month with one month's notice. A capability to fly 8,300 Navy attack sorties per month indefinitely with one month's notice will be maintained through FY 75.
- b/ Anticipated munitions delivery sorties; FY 73 averages for 4th quarter only. Services should anticipate alternating periods of low and intense activity, rather than sustained average levels.
- c/ Until otherwise directed, the Navy will maintain one CVA on-station off Vietnam, one within four days' sailing time of Vietnam and one within one week's sailing time. The carrier force will include appropriate combatants and support ships consistent with normal WESTPAC deployments.
- d/ Support of MARKET TIME. P-3 requirement will be terminated sooner if VNAF EC-119L squadron is operationally ready before end-FY 75.
- e/ In addition to forces listed, the Air Force will provide SEATACs and THW aircraft consistent with the requirements of the deployed forces.
- f/ Attack sortie capability to be based in Thailand. Through FY 74 the Air Force will maintain the capability, if needed, to deploy with two weeks' notice sufficient forces to fly 10,000 attack sorties per month indefinitely. A capability to fly 3,300 sorties per month indefinitely with two weeks' notice and 10,000 sorties per month indefinitely with one month's notice will be maintained through FY 75.
- g/ B-52 capability to be based in Thailand. Through FY 74 the Air Force will maintain the capability, if needed, to deploy with two weeks' notice sufficient forces to fly 3,000 sorties per month indefinitely. A capability to fly 2,400 sorties per month indefinitely with two weeks' notice will be maintained through FY 75.
- h/ End FY 73 manpower ceiling assumes redeployment of forces not needed for the end FY 73 force capability levels. Assumes a linear transition from the end of one fiscal year to the next.
- i/ Assumes a linear transition from the end of one fiscal year to the next. Sorties are in support of flying hours only. Munitions planning factors are in Enclosure 2.
- j/ Less contract air support for FY 74 and beyond will be reduced 25% below levels in February 73 WDP update.

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Enclosure 1

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MUNITIONS PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

Air munitions procurement planning is to assume the following levels of U.S. combat air activity in Southeast Asia during the periods indicated:

U.S. Attack Sorties per Month

| <u>USAF:</u> | <u>April - June 73</u> | <u>FY 74</u> | <u>FY 75</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Tac Air | 3,700 | 1,600 | 1,500 |
| Gunships | 400 | 150 | 150 |
| B-52s | 1,000 | 600 | 300 |

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| <u>USN:</u> | | | |
| Tac Air | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |

MASF air and ground munitions procurement planning and programming is to assume the following levels of SEA Allied combat activity and munitions expenditures during the period 1 April 1973 through the end of the FY 79 munitions procurement FDP. The MASF munitions procurement funds, by year, indicated for the FY 75-79 FDPs are to be incorporated in the appropriate Service's FY 75-79 Program Objective Memoranda (POM).

Air Munitions MASF Programming Assumptions

| | <u>1 Apr 73-30 Jun 74</u> | <u>1 Jul-31 Dec 74 a/</u> | <u>FY 75-79 FDPs b/</u> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>VMAF (Attack Sorties/Mo)</u> | | | |
| Tac Air | 5,250 | 3,300 | 3,300 |
| Gunships | 500 | 300 | 300 |
| <u>RLAF (Attack Sorties/Mo)</u> | | | |
| Tac Air | 2,400 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Gunships | 150 | 100 | 100 |
| <u>VNAF/RLAF Air Munitions Expenditures/MASF Procurement</u> | | | |
| | \$ 233 M | \$ 98 M | \$ 116 M |

a/ End of FY 74 air munitions procurement FDP.
b/ Same in each year, 75 through 79.

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Enclosure 2

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Ground Munitions MASF Programming Assumptions

| | <u>1 Apr 73-30 Jun 74</u> | <u>1 Jul 74-31 Mar 75 a/</u> | <u>FY 75-79 FDPs b/</u> |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| RVNAF/RLG Expenditures as % | 80% | 50% | 50% |
| Rate Programmed for FY 73 FDP | | | |
| RVNAF/RLG Munitions Expenditures/MAST Procurement | \$ 820 M | \$ 308 M | \$ 410 M |

a/ End of FY 74 ground ammunition procurement FDP.

b/ Same in each year, 75-79.

All air and ground munitions procurement budgeting/programming, production scheduling, and distribution planning will be designed so as to support the munitions expenditures assumed above, while also protecting a munitions posture that could support the following surge capability. Services should assume that the surge, once implemented, would be maintained indefinitely. Naval gun munitions planning should similarly protect a munitions posture which could support the indicated surge in naval gunfire support ship combat activity.

Surge Capability to be Protected for Southeast Asia

Through FY 74

| | |
|---|----------|
| Within 15 days: | |
| Land-based Tac Air (Attack Sorties/Month) | 12,000 |
| Air Force | (10,000) |
| Marine Corps | (2,000) |
| B-52s (Sorties/Month) | 3,000 |
| Within 30 days: | |
| Navy Tac Air (Attack Sorties/Month) | 8,400 |
| Naval Gunfire Support Ships | 22 |

Through FY 75:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Within 15 days: | |
| Air Force Tac Air (Attack Sorties/Month) | 3,300 |
| B-52s (Sorties/Month) | 2,400 |
| Within 30 days: | |
| Navy Tac Air (Attack Sorties/Month) | 6,300 |
| Air Force Tac Air (Attack Sorties/Month) | 10,000 |
| Naval Gunfire Support Ships | 22 |

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The funds in the Air Force and Navy FY 73/74 air munitions procurement budgets and the Army FY 73/74 ground munitions procurement budgets, as approved in PBDs 207RC and 167RC, respectively, are not to be reduced from present levels unless and until the foregoing Southeast Asia munitions planning assumptions are modified by the Secretary of Defense. The Services' FY 75-79 POM munitions procurement programs are to be based on end FY 74 FDP inventory projections derived from actual 31 March 73 inventories, the foregoing SEA munitions planning assumptions, and the approved FY 73/74 munitions procurement budgets as defined by the above-specified PBDs.

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