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**SUBJECT:** Army Air Force Cover and Deception Organization

**TO:** Commanding General, Army Air Forces  
Room 3E 1020, Pentagon Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

**REFERENCES:** (a) JCS 256/2/D, JCS 202/39  
(b) JCS 234/5/D  
(c) DC/S Memo dated 5 July 1946, subject: Cover and Deception  
(d) AG Ltr, File AGAO-S-2 322 T3 (20 Jun 46), dated 8 July 1946, subject: Tactical Cover and Deception

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. During World War II, the art of military cover and deception was an important contribution to the implementation of broad strategic plans, as well as to many tactical ones. Army Air Force participation therein was mainly in an implementing role, with deception planning being accomplished by a staff of ground force and/or naval officers.

2. Responsibility for cover and deception matters within the Joint Chiefs of Staff rests with the Joint Staff Planners and Joint Security Control (references (a) and (b)), and within the War Department with Plans and Operations Division (Inclosure 1), with primary responsibility for appropriate tactical cover and deception employment being charged respectively to the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces and Commanding General, Army Air Forces (Inclosure 2).

DISCUSSION

3. There is at present no organization within the Headquarters, Army Air Forces, designated to plan, recommend, train personnel for, or assist in the implementation of Army Air Force cover and deception measures, or to advise the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, in discharging his responsibilities regarding training for, or employment of, tactical cover and deception.

4. With the development of a separate air strategy, it is believed that a need exists for an organization within the Headquarters, Army Air Forces, which is thoroughly familiar with the application, capabilities and limitations of military cover and deception with relation to air strategy, tactics, and air war plans. Such an organization would accomplish

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the functions listed in the preceding paragraph, and would be available to closely coordinate Army Air Force participation in strategic cover and deception with the other Services.

5. a. This organization or committee should be composed of a designated representative of each Assistant Chief of Air Staff plus a representative from the Air Communications Office and the Office of the Air Engineer, to form a permanent group of personnel who will have a thorough continuing knowledge of the subject of military cover and deception.

b. Responsibilities of the individual representatives would include:

- (1) Assistant Chief of Air Staff-5 -- chairman or steering member, planning.
- (2) Assistant Chief of Air Staff-2 -- deputy chairman or deputy steering member, intelligence and planning.
- (3) Assistant Chief of Air Staff-3 -- implementation of planned operations.
- (4) Assistant Chief of Air Staff-1 and Assistant Chief of Air Staff-4 -- personnel and material required to implement cover and deception plans.
- (5) Air Communications Office -- director of communications cover and deception, signal counter intelligence, and liaison officer with Army Security Agency.
- (6) Office of the Air Engineer -- planning and development of field layout, devices relating to visual deception, including camouflage.

e. Close liaison between this committee and the Army Air Forces Executive of Joint Security Control (representing the Air Member who is also Assistant Chief of Air Staff-2) will assist in the orientation and establishment of the committee members with the broad background of strategic cover and deception, and promote coordination of future Army Air Force plans with those of the other Services.

#### RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that the proposals set forth under the Discussion be approved, and that the committee be established by the directive contained in the appendix. This recommendation has been coordinated with and has the concurrence of the Air Staff.

2 Incls

1. Copy of reference (c)
2. Copy of reference (d)

GEORGE C. McDONALD  
Maj. Gen., U. S. Army  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff-2

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