

(EAMs) in the command posts were also arriving untrained, and USAFE emergency action trainers were not prepared to train them. Overall, too many inexperienced officers and enlisted personnel were being assigned to the MUNSS, with no quality check by USAFE headquarters, the numbered air forces, or MUNSS commanders. Even the commanders were a problem. A majority of MUNSS commanders were newly appointed with no prior experience at that command level,⁸⁸ even though their job was to guard and employ the ultimate weapons.

The U.S. Air Force implemented new procedures and committed new resources in an attempt to fix the problem. Between April and November 1994, for example, the wing readiness and inspection division of the 31st Wing at Aviano Air Base in Italy conducted no less than 11 Limited Nuclear Surety Inspections (LNSIs).⁸⁹ Inspection scores in 1995 showed some improvement, but the declining pool of nuclear trained personnel continued to be a problem. The reduced manning made it difficult to keep inspection visits on track. The schedule at the time called for main operating bases (Aviano, Lakenheath, Ramstein, Incirlik) and standard tour MUNSS sites (Kleine Brogel, Volkel, Büchel, Nörvenich, Memmingen, Ghedi Torre) to be visited annually, with semiannual visits to the three short-tour (one-year rotation) MUNSS sites in Turkey (Akinci and Balikesir) and Greece (Araxos).⁹⁰

Another attempt to improve nuclear surety involved NATO's oversight of nuclear certifications of USAFE units in support of the alliance. NATO periodically conducts TAC EVALs of USAFE nuclear-capable units, but up until 1998 there was no procedure in place for NATO to monitor their readiness and capability to carry out their nuclear mission. To correct this deficiency, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in March 1998 requested that the U.S. Air Force release executive summaries to NATO officials of all nuclear evaluations of units tasked to provide Dual-Capable Aircraft (DCA) support to NATO.

Air Combat Command (ACC) complied with the request, and the first opportunity to provide the information came after a combined Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI), Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), and Fighter Nuclear Procedures Inspection (FNPI) for the 4th Fighter Wing (FW) at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina in May 1998. This was also the first such nuclear readiness evaluation of that unit, which assessed the ability of the wing to carry out its assigned mission, including deploying F-15Es to Europe. ACC later reported that NATO officials at SHAPE were pleased with the results.⁹¹

Another change implemented by NATO was to replace the NATO Alert System with the Nuclear Precautionary System (NPS), which occurred in October 1994. The NPS directed that the nuclear strike aircraft would be under much tighter political control than previously. At the same time, NPS also eased the Soviet-focused nuclear command and control architecture and provided a more flexible system that could support strikes against regional aggressors armed with weapons of mass destruction.⁹²

- 77 "Rome Summit," *NATO's Sixteen Nations*, December 1991, p. 58.
- 78 Nicholas Doughty, "NATO Strategy Allows Use of Nuclear Weapons to End War," *Reuter* (Brussels), 26 May 1992.
- 79 R. Jeffrey Smith, "Cheney Open to Soviet Bomb Storage Proposal," *Washington Post*, October 15.
- 80 "Defense Ministers Say NATO Must Maintain Limited Nuclear Arms," *United Press International* (Taormina), October 18, 1991.
- Different news report vary somewhat in their reporting of Mr. Woerner's statement. Reuters reported: "Nuclear weapons will never be disinvented. That is why I do not foresee a situation where we will denuclearise Europe." "NATO Says No Nuclear-Free Europe Despite Major Cuts," *Reuters* (Taormina), October 18, 1991.
- 81 Department of the Air Force, HQ USAFE, Special Order GB-54, September 30, 1993. Released under FOIA.
- 82 HQ USAFE, "History of the 31st Fighter Wing 1 April-31 December 1994," n.d. [1995], pp. 86, 87, 88. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 83 Department of the Air Force, HQ USAFE Office of History, "History of United States Air Forces in Europe, Calendar Year 1993," Volume I, June 23, 1994, p. 269. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 84 *Ibid.*
- 85 *Ibid.*, pp. lii, 270.
- 86 *Ibid.*, p. 258.
- 87 *Ibid.*
- 88 *Ibid.*, pp. 258-259.
- 89 HQ USAFE, "History of the 31st Fighter Wing 1 April-31 December 1994," n.d. [1995], p. 24. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 90 Department of the Air Force, HQ USAFE Office of History, "History of United States Air Forces in Europe, Calendar Year 1993," Volume I, June 23, 1994, p. 262. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 91 Air Combat Command, "History of Air Combat Command, 1 January –31 December 1998," n.d. [1999], p. 47. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 92 Keith P. Watts, et al., "Dual Capable Aircraft Prelaunch Survivability," Defense Nuclear Agency, DNA-TR-94-61, p. 3. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 93 The SIOP was officially renamed OPLAN (Operational Plan) 8044 in 2003. The last plan to use the previous name was SIOP-03 Revision 3 from March 2003.
- 94 General George Lee Butler, U.S. Air Force, Strategic Command, "Statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee," 22 April 1993, p. 3.
- 95 *Ibid.*
- 96 U.S. Strategic Command, "The SILVER BOOK Concept: Providing Military Options to Counter Proliferation," July 1993, p. 8. Secret. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 97 U.S. Strategic Command, "Counterproliferation and the Silver Book," 10 March 1994, p. 1. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 98 U.S. Strategic Command, "Minutes of the Fifty-Second United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group Meeting (U), 27-28 October 1994, Offutt AFB, Nebraska," 27 January 1995, pp. 10, 17, 18. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 99 U.S. Strategic Command, "Intelligence Support to the Silver Book Concept," Secret, March 1994, slide 4. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 100 Admiral Henry Chiles, Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Command, U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Armed Services, Hearings on Department of Defense Authorization for Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1995 and the Future Years Defense Program, Part 1, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess., 20 April 1994, pp. 979-980.
- 101 U.S. Strategic Command/J513, Memorandum for the Record, "NSNF Working Group Meeting Minutes of 8 Feb 1994," February 9, 1994, p. 2. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 102 U.S. Strategic Command, "Extracts from USCINCPACSTRAT Brief for EUCOM Visit (Nov 1994)," November 1, 1994. Partially declassified and released under FOIA.
- 103 *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- 104 U.S. Strategic Command/J513, Memorandum for the Record, "NSNF Working Group Meeting Minutes