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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR PRESIDENT:

Jack Marsh reviewed and approved
the attached recommendation.

Jim Connor

*approved 12/13 +
original returned
135*

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 11, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh

up 12/11

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Soon as Possible Please

Time:

SUBJECT:

Scowcroft memo 12/11/76 re Revision to the Unified Command Plan

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHEMENT

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

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Jim Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL GDS

December 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 

SUBJECT: Revision to the Unified Command Plan

Secretary Rumsfeld has requested that you approve a change to the Unified Command Plan (UCP) involving military airlift forces.

Background

The Unified Command Plan authorizes, under the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, unified combatant commands (composed of components of two or more services) and specified combatant commands (made up of forces from a single service). For operational matters, these commands are responsible directly to the Secretary of Defense through the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1975, you approved changes to the UCP which included disestablishment of three unified commands, the Alaskan, Southern, and Continental Air Defense Commands, and designated the Air Force Aerospace Defense Command as a specified command. Earlier this year, you approved a revision to the UCP which placed the Indian Ocean wholly under the responsibility of Pacific Command, one of the four unified commands.

Change Proposed by DOD

In his memo to you at Tab B, Secretary Rumsfeld is asking that the Air Force's Military Airlift Command (MAC) be designated as a specified command for airlift. The recommendation formally recognizes the importance of coordinated airlift in wartime, periods of crisis, and during joint exercises. The designation of MAC as a specified command

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KR 5/13/86

would place that command's airlift assets directly under the same command authority (the Secretary of Defense through the Joint Chiefs of Staff) which directs combat forces and operations. By creating this third specified command -- the others are the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Defense Command -- DOD is recognizing the importance of military airlift as an integral factor in crisis or combat operations and the need to provide for coordinated direction of airlift along with other forces. The suggested UCP revision would retain MAC's routine peacetime logistics functions under the Secretary of the Air Force.

I believe that the Defense proposal to designate MAC as specified command is sound, and I recommend that you approve it.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize me to sign the memo to Secretary Rumsfeld at Tab A approving the change to the Unified Command Plan.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Unified Command Plan

The President has reviewed the revision of the Unified Command Plan proposed in your memorandum of December 2, 1976 and has approved the designation of the Military Airlift Command (MAC) as a specified command for airlift.

Brent Scowcroft

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Send for Henry
no ay up
- 2 DEC 1976

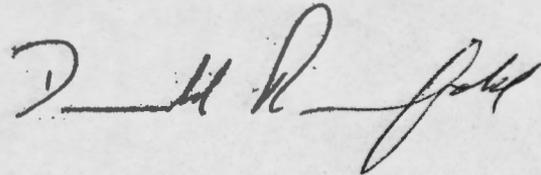
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Unified Command Plan

Attached is a proposed revision to the Unified Command Plan (UCP) prepared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The change proposed by this revision is to designate the Military Airlift Command (MAC) as a specified command for airlift. This change will expand the unified command structure; enhance the management of airlift forces during wartime, periods of crisis, and JCS exercises; and improve the operational support to other combatant forces of the United States. Since effective management of airlift resources is essential to our national security policy, the Commander, MAC, should receive this strategic direction directly from the Secretary of Defense through the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Service logistic functions will remain unchanged, under the Secretary of the Air Force.

I fully support the proposed UCP revision as written and with your approval will advise Congress of our intention prior to directing implementation of this change.



Attachment
as stated

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ANNEX

(C) and Service training missions only, USCINCSO's area is extended to include all of Latin America. Except for the defense of the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone, contingency planning within his area of responsibility will be oriented primarily to the evacuation of US nationals and disaster relief.

26. (U) Strategic Air Command (SAC). The Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command (CINCSAC), with present headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska, is the commander of a specified command comprising all forces assigned for accomplishment of his missions.

27. (U) Military Airlift Command (MAC). The Commander in Chief, Military Airlift Command (CINCMAC), with present headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Illinois, is the commander of a specified command comprising all forces assigned for accomplishment of his military airlift missions during wartime, periods of crisis, JCS exercises, and as necessary to insure the operational support to other unified and specified commands. The Service logistic functions remain under the Secretary of the Air Force.

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Appendix

(Revised -

Classified by 55
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KE 5/10/85