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PHOTOGRAPHS & POLICY
MAY 1944

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AG 162.07 (1 May 44) CE-C-B-M

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WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington 25, D.C.



FI/res 28-939 Pentagon

17 May 1944

SUBJECT: Command Responsibilities for Maps and Photographs.

TO : * * * * *

The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations,
* * * * *

1. Analyses of reports from active theaters show that although the machinery, equipment and organization for procurement of maps, photomaps, intelligence photographs, etc., have been available, troops have gone into action without adequate terrain coverage. Such instances are directly attributable to a failure of command. No commander can assume that automatic arrangements for the supply of this terrain coverage may be made as in the case of ammunition or food. Each new operational area requires detailed planning and coordination in order that photography may be procured and maps and photographs processed therefrom. Commanders in every echelon must take steps at the earliest practicable moment to procure his maps and photographs, whether by use of his own facilities or by specific request to such higher command as may be necessary.

2. Attention is directed to AR 308-15, Mapping and Charting, and Field Manuals 30-30 and 30-21, which prescribe responsibilities and procedures for coordination of aerial photography and the Engineer-Air Force mapping team. While necessary revisions pertaining to details of these publications are in process, the fundamental responsibilities will not be changed. The essential elements of these responsibilities are:

- a. Plans, policies, and supervision pertaining to Air Force and Engineer mapping and photographic activities are responsibilities of command.
- b. Production, supply, and distribution of maps, including specifications for mapping photography, are responsibilities of Engineers.
- c. The performance of aerial photography is a responsibility of Air Forces, both for mapping and other purposes.
- d. The supply of aerial photographs is a responsibility of Air Forces and Engineers (the latter for quantity reproduction within limits of their authorized equipment).

3. Of these essential elements of responsibility, none can be fulfilled completely without proper action by commanders of all echelons and particularly by commanders of that echelon having control of both Air Force and Engineer elements. Command responsibility involves the following:

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a. Plans. A considerable period of time is always required for the production and distribution of usable maps and photographs to combat elements. The commander responsible for any operation will insure that mapping and photographic agencies (both Air Force and Engineers) are given notice in sufficient time to produce and distribute suitable maps and photographs. He will also insure that a timely and detailed plan including the designation of priorities is prepared which will produce the desired results.

b. Policies. Commanders will prescribe suitable detailed procedures in accordance with War Department policies with respect to maps and photographs, including such matters as priorities, types, quantities, production and distribution. No subordinate Engineer or Air Force commander will be placed in the position of determining relative priorities among the various requesting agencies or of being forced into unsound and non-essential production of maps or photographs.

c. Supervision. The immense and complex nature of the aerial photographic and mapping task must be appreciated. Commanders will supervise the execution of their plans and policies to insure both coordination and results. Commanders will take such special action as may be required to insure that adequate and qualified staffs are available for planning, and supervision, not only for his own staff but also for Air Force and Engineer staffs within his command.

d. The War Department supports theaters by supplying initial maps, by supplementing theater facilities for photography and mapping as far as is practicable, and by assuming responsibility for mapping operations beyond theater limits. It cannot, however, assist in the detailed theater program except upon theater request for specific work or for additional facilities. Similarly, War Department facilities prepare maps and photographs for maneuvers in the United States upon request, but the training of staffs, engineers, and air forces in the field remains a command responsibility.

5. Inclosed is an outline of means and methods available for the procurement of maps, photocopies, and intelligence photographs. Copies of this communication will be distributed to all appropriate subordinate commands.

By order of the Secretary of War:

s/ Robert H. Dunlop
t/ ROBERT H. DUNLOP
Brigadier General
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl
Outline

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A. S. X.

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PROCUREMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS IN THE FIELD

1. The following description of means and methods available to commanders in the field is furnished as a guide. Details are revised as required by changing conditions of operations, organization and equipment. The principles described will still apply.

2. Theater Photography. The proper use of general theater aerial photographic facilities is a responsibility of the theater commander. He must take action to establish such priorities as will insure the accomplishment of vital missions and will prevent the diversion of photographic facilities to unrelated or less important operations. In practice, the theater commander should establish a "priorities board" or similar agency under the direct supervision of his Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, which will insure proper consideration of all requirements. This agency may be called upon to consider air, ground, Allied and naval requirements, both for general mapping coverage and for intelligence missions. Requests for photography must be submitted through command channels or through such channels as may be approved by the theater commander. Distribution within each command is a responsibility of the commander thereof.

3. Procedure for obtaining photography from cooperating air units. The ground force commander (through designated liaison or other appropriate staff officers) should submit his requirements for photography (including priorities) to the commander of the tactical air force or tactical air command for accomplishment. The air commander directs the necessary missions in accordance with the priority furnished, within the limits imposed by the air situation and available equipment. The air commander informs the ground commander of the action taken on requests submitted. The ground force commander should provide interpreters at the airbases of photographic units performing the missions. These interpreters should examine photographs immediately after printing and select such prints as are desired for quantity reproduction. The air force will furnish duplicate negatives of selected photographs to enable the ground force to produce and distribute such quantities of prints as may be desired. Alternately, the air force will produce the quantity of prints required within their limitations. Distribution of prints and mosaics within any command is the responsibility of that command.

4. Photomaps. The Air Forces produce all air charts required for their operations. These vary from small-scale navigation charts to such large-scale mosaics, sketches, diagrams and maps as may be necessary for aerial operations. Air Forces are also charged with providing mosaics and prints to other forces, upon request, within the limits of their equipment. Engineers are charged with the production of all maps including photomaps and, therefore, staff coordination and planning is required to prevent duplication between ground and air elements and to obtain the desired production by the most expeditious and convenient means. For example, it is generally more convenient to have the Air Forces furnish prints of oblique photographs, which include a target designation grid, even though, in one sense of the word, this is a photomap. Similarly, a mosaic for general purposes (other than fire control) may be more conveniently and expeditiously laid by the Air Forces and yet may be usable by both ground and air forces.

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5. Mapping Photography. Advance mapping is generally a theater problem requiring theater decisions as to the use of photographic facilities as well as mapping facilities. The Theater program must be laid out in consultation with Engineer topographic personnel and Air Forces photographic personnel. Execution of the photography requires close coordination of this same personnel generally to include Engineer participation in planning flights, briefing crews, and checking results. Combat mapping squadrons are available in most theaters, for this work but, where not available or where not in sufficient quantity, theater action is required to provide the necessary photography. Photo reconnaissance units are trained for mapping photography in addition to intelligence photography.

6. Mapping. Mapping operations are divided into two general categories, advance mapping of general areas for prospective combat and mapping during operations to improve the map situation. Advance mapping requires the use of all available theater mapping facilities including those organizations assigned to armies and corps not engaged. This advance mapping requires careful technical planning and coordination by a theater staff, normally that of the Theater Engineer. This theater staff calls upon the Chief of Engineers for assistance when such assistance is practicable. Such mapping is carried out to conform to policies of the War Department and agreements with our Allies. Mapping during operations falls upon the topographic battalions, companies, or detachments assigned to the task force. Their operations are normally limited by the time element and by limitations of their field equipment. Within these limitations these units can perform map revision and compilation as required provided the appropriate higher command assures the necessary aerial photography. Commanders of task forces are responsible for this production and commanders of all echelons are responsible for the distribution of the resulting maps. Unit engineers are normally charged with distribution of maps within their units under the supervision of the unit G-2.

