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# 1

## "All we need is ships!"

On December 14, 1941, Eisenhower joined the War Plans Division of the War Department as Deputy Chief for the Pacific and Far East. Brigadier General Leonard Townsend Gerow was Chief of the Division. Created on September 1, 1921, at the same time as the "G" Divisions—G-1, personnel; G-2, intelligence; G-3, mobilization and training; and G-4, supply—the War Plans Division (WPD) was concerned primarily with strategic planning and was thus involved in all phases of the war. On February 16, 1942, Eisenhower became Chief of the Division, which in March was reorganized and renamed the Operations Division (OPD) and given even broader powers in directing military operations. Chief of Staff General George Catlett Marshall was in constant contact with WPD-OPD and relied upon it heavily. The functions of WPD-OPD (the name was used interchangeably for a time) are probably best described by a frequently used nickname for it, "Command Post for Marshall." For an account of the Division's origins and functions, see Ray S. Cline, *Washington Command Post: The Operations Division, U.S. Army in World War II*, ed. Kent Roberts Greenfield (Washington, 1951). General

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Chiefs of Staff for the purpose of reducing the personnel requirements to the minimum.<sup>1</sup> However, it is my belief that the objective of the proposed studies should be to determine the minimum personnel requirements which the Joint Chiefs of Staff agencies require to fulfill the present responsibilities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, rather than to attempt to relate the study to the strength now proposed for the Joint Staff.

2. With reference to paragraph 2, JCS 1756, I believe that as a matter of procedure, it is preferable to have the Joint Chiefs of Staff Secretariat coordinate the study, rather than to have it done by the Joint Staff Planners in collaboration with the Secretariat. The Secretary is free to call upon any JCS agency for aid and can also call on experts from the departments. It is therefore recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff direct:

- Each agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to review its charter and personnel requirements with a view of reducing the latter to a minimum.
- The Secretariat, Joint Chiefs of Staff to coordinate and review the studies made by the various agencies and to submit a report to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for approval.

3. As to paragraph 3, JCS 1756, I agree that in view of the nature of their work, the Joint Logistics Committee in collaboration with the Army-Navy Petroleum Board should jointly review the status of the Army-Navy Petroleum Board, including its charter and personnel requirements. However, I recommended that this review also be in consonance with the principle expressed in paragraph 1, above.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In JCS 1756, of March 12, Nimitz pointed out that there were at present 407 full-time (including 178 officers) and 41 part-time personnel in the supporting agencies of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The pending national security bill of 1947 would provide, however, for a staff of only 100 officers to support the JCS (see no. 1675). Nimitz, who thought the number of full-time officers should not exceed 100, wanted the JSP and the JCS Secretariat to study ways to reduce personnel requirements. He also wanted the Joint Logistics Committee and the Army-Navy

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