

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1 May 1963

SUBJECT: Operational Aspects of the NRO

1. On 15 April 1963, Dr. McMillan sent a memorandum to the Deputy Secretary of Defense on the above subject. The purpose of this memo was to propose a means of

a. Effecting formal coordination between the peripheral activities of the JCS and the over-flight activities of the NRO.

b. Formalizing coordination by the JCS of the resources of the unified and specified commands which may be required to support NRO over-flight activities.

c. Insuring that the NRO has available to it the best military operational knowledge and experience.

2. The gist of Dr. McMillan's memorandum is as follows:

a. The policy with respect to operational aspects of the NRO needs qualification. In addition, the present organizational arrangement is inadequate with respect to capabilities for operational planning and analysis.

b. The definition of a denied area for over-flight is not clearly understood. The NRO defines a denied area for over-flight as any area which requires the specific permission of the 5412 Special Group or higher.

c. The question of when the NRO should cease to be responsible for such aircraft flights has been raised. Dr. McMillan recommended the policy that this transfer occur to the appropriate military commander upon the decision of the Secretary of Defense or higher authority that the particular denied area had become an active theater of military hostilities.

d. With respect to the inadequacy of the present organizational arrangement for planning and analysis, Dr. McMillan attached a proposed solution and recommended that it be discussed with the JCS. This proposed solution and the JCS reaction to it are discussed in the following paragraphs.

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

De

3. The specific problem to which the DNRO proposed a solution was "to define the organizational arrangement whereby the DNRO may discharge its responsibilities for aircraft over-flight reconnaissance of denied areas." The essence of the proposed solution is shown in the attached chart. Under this plan, the JRC becomes the coordinating point for the NRO with the JCS, the specified commands, and other departments and agencies. The separately stated functions of the JRC when it is operating as the AOC under the NRO include the following:

- a. Review the requirements for operational flights and assign responsibility to the service elements, the CIA, etc.
- b. Review the plans for and coordinate over-flight and peripheral activities.
- c. Monitor all NRO reconnaissance missions.
- d. Prepare a forecast of all NRO missions for the Special Group and assist the DNRO as required in presentations to the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (FIAB).
- e. Maintain liaison with the DIA and the USIB on requirements for over-flight.
- f. Specify the targets of satellite missions and the desired on-orbit target-program option. Make the on-orbit selection between the available options based on weather or intelligence factors.

4. The Joint Staff has reviewed the DNRO proposal described above. As of 30 April, however, the Chiefs had not formally considered their recommendations. The Staff position is that the Joint Chiefs should approve the DNRO proposal providing the specific operational procedures for the JRC in its new dual capacity can be satisfactorily defined in detail. In addition, concern is expressed regarding the lack of a clear definition of the responsibilities for research and development of satellite reconnaissance systems for use during limited and general war. It is proposed that the JCS recommend to the Secretary of Defense that appropriate DoD directives be changed to clarify that the responsibility for research and development of satellite reconnaissance systems for limited or general war rests with the military services.

1 Atch - Chart

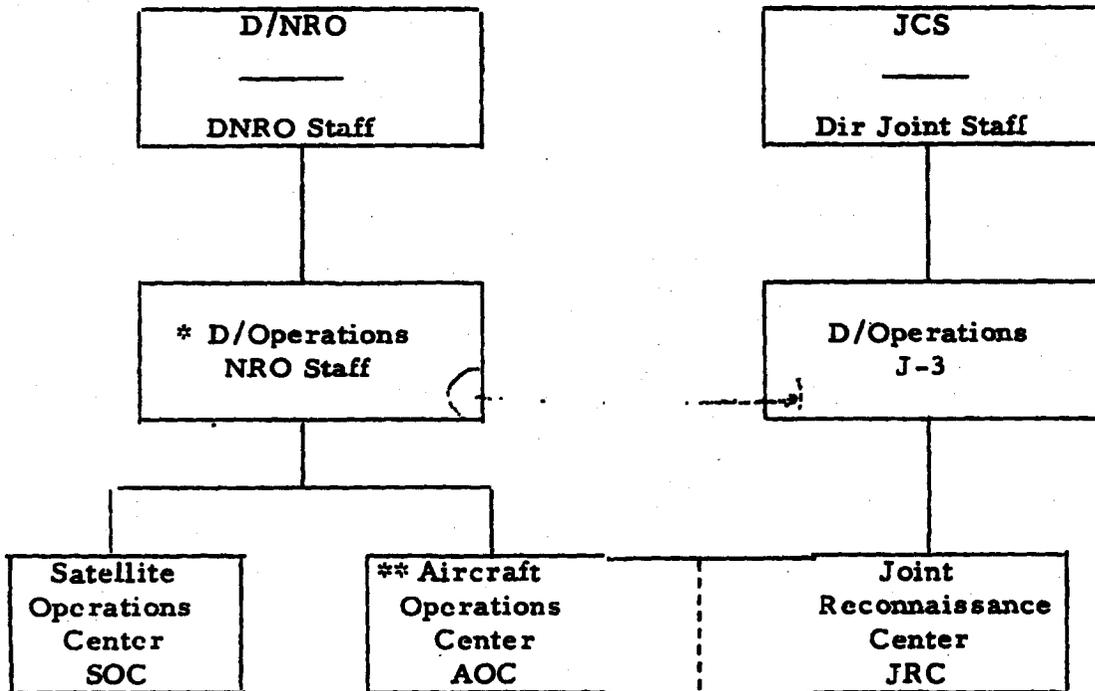
Postscript: On 1 May, the Joint Chiefs approved the recommendations of the Joint Staff as described above to be forwarded to the Secretary of Defense.

~~TOP SECRET~~

De
Control Group

~~TOP SECRET~~

Dual (JCS-NRO) Functions of the
JRC (Joint Reconnaissance Center)



* Chairman, JRC also serves as D/Operations of the NRO staff.

** JRC and AOC consist of the same personnel and resources:
as the JRC, they serve the JCS; they serve the NRO in
accordance with separately stated functions.

~~TOP SECRET~~