



Document No. [REDACTED]

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**SUBJECT: Technical Support for Project ARGON**

As you recall, ARGON is a satellite mapping project jointly administered by ARPA and CIA. Operations will be conducted during the summer of 1960 as part of the AFRMID RECOVERER Program. The objectives of the project are to develop, by 1961, a world geodetic grid, accurate to within 750 feet, and to provide reference data, equipment and techniques capable of automatic correlation of this improved geodetic data with targets derived from other reconnaissance source materials. Air Force will be the principal consumer for the ARGON end-product.

To insure best state of the art, Project ARGON has leaned heavily on advanced technology developed by the various military services. Experience and consultations of the Air Force Wright Air Development Center have contributed substantially to the development of the ARGON camera system. It is now deemed desirable that Air Force technical assistance for this project be expanded. Therefore, it is requested that Air Force experience and competence as developed in [REDACTED] and under development in Project [REDACTED] be utilized in support of the ARGON data reduction effort. The coordination of these technically related projects should result in an advantageous exchange of experience, and substantial savings in cost. Several items of complex equipment could be jointly developed and utilized if properly programmed to preclude conflicts.

It is also believed that missile targetting specialists from ACIC can provide guidance as to format and quality control desired for the ARGON end-product so this may be most effectively utilized by Air Force consumers.

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For purposes of orderly management, a single channel for technical contributions to Project ARGON was established by ARPA and CIA at the Army Map Service. It is envisaged that Air Force technical consultations will be made in coordination with the ARGON Technical Guidance Staff at AMS.

Maximum Air Force participation in Project ARGON is, therefore, requested. To accomplish this end, you are invited to submit names of Air Force specialists in the aforementioned fields to the Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Atlas Special Projects Branch. It is hoped that this coordinated effort can be effected at the earliest possible date.

*Ray W. Johnson*  
Ray W. Johnson  
Director

cc:

