

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

January 14, 1961

*Redo memo
for
Jep*

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Army/Navy Liaison Officer Billets in the NRO

Purpose

To forward Mr. Nitze's request for the establishment of two additional O-6 billets in the NRO.

Background

In the OASD(A) staffing of Acting Secretary Baird's October 8 memorandum to Mr. Nitze, the question of additional Service representation on the NRO Staff was raised. Colonel Morrison and Commander Emerson (of Mr. Horwitz' office) reviewed this question with General Berg -- set forth initially as a proposal for the assignment of both a Navy and Army "liaison" officer. In this review, General Berg explained, in detail, the philosophy of multi-service/agency representation on the Staff and, following discussions with you, recommended strongly against the assignment to the Staff of personnel charged specifically and solely as representatives of their parent organizations.

Present Situation

Mr. Nitze has asked (Tab A) that we establish billets for an additional Army Colonel and Navy Captain in the NRO. He has directed that "these officers are to perform duties assigned by the Director, NRO Staff, and are to be additionally responsible for ensuring regular exchanges of information with...their respective departments...."

Discussion

Fortunately, the initial proposal that these officers function solely as a "liaison" on the NRO Staff for their respective Services has been abandoned. Mr. Nitze's direction that they "perform duties assigned by the Director, NRO Staff" is certainly in line with our current operating philosophy. His further direction that they "be additionally responsible for ensuring regular exchanges of information with...their respective departments..." presents no particular problem in that we have provided in the past and are currently providing for such exchange through Lt Col Williamson (our Army member) for the Army and through Commander Carberry (a Navy assignee) for the Navy as a follow-on to the excellent rapport established much earlier by Captain Koch (recent retired).

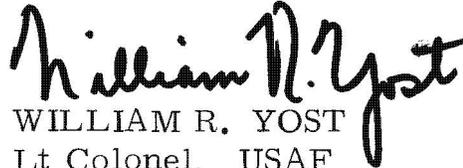
Recommendations

We would propose that the Army O-6 billet be filled by Lt Col Williamson, who would continue to ensure a regular exchange of information on matters of interest to the Secretary of the Army.

Since Commander Carberry is primarily involved in SIGINT activity in the SOC, we would suggest for the Navy billet an R&D qualified officer specifically in the electronics field, in view of current and projected Navy activity in the ocean surveillance satellite program area.

With your approval, we will proceed, on this basis, in our discussions with the Army and Navy.

Attached, on the right, are memoranda for your signature to the Secretaries of the Army and the Navy indicating that General Berg is prepared to discuss the assignments with their designated representatives. Also attached is an acknowledgement of Mr. Nitze's request noting our action in this regard.


WILLIAM R. YOST
Lt Colonel, USAF

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