

JCSM-451-60

10 OCT 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Establishment of a Joint Reconnaissance  
Signal Activity Center (U)

1. Events on 1 May 1960 (loss of the U-2) and 1 July 1960 (loss of the RB-47) have focused world attention on reconnaissance operations of all types. Soviet sensitivity to these operations has been clearly indicated. They have become a subject of increased interest to the White House and State Department because of the implications and consequences any further incidents could generate. The White House has advised the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, of its concern, and requested assurances from the Chairman that sensitive military reconnaissance operations are being closely monitored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have accordingly approved the establishment of a Joint Reconnaissance Center (short title "JRC") as an integral part of the Joint Staff under the Director for Operations (J-3), as outlined in the Appendix hereto. The JRC will monitor all reconnaissance operations conducted by the unified and specified commands or by their component commands.

It will evaluate and coordinate these operations, transmit to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for approval those which constitute exceptions to approved policy or which might seriously affect other U.S. operations or programs under particular existing conditions, and will brief all appropriate staffs on the details and results of such operations. An end use of this space in Joint Staff manpower authorizations and funds to provide for a secure vault-type area in proximity to the Joint War Room will be required.

DDC 12

3. It is recommended that you approve the concept as outlined above and in the Appendix hereto, including the future additional manpower authorizations and funds to be requested. It is further recommended that you forward copies of the Appendix hereto to the Director, Central Intelligence Agency and the Director, National Security Agency, for their information.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

**LENNITZ**

L. L. LENNITZ,  
Chairman,  
Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Attachment

Distr:

Chairman, JCS (2)

CEC

DCSOPS

Secy for ONO (JCS)

Dir, Plans, AF

ASOPS 7/0

Dir JCS (2)

(JCS 2150/51 - Approved 4 October 1960)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff, U.S. Army  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Commander in Chief, Alaska  
Commander in Chief, Atlantic  
Commander in Chief, Caribbean  
Commander in Chief, Continental Air Defense  
Command  
Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command  
Commander in Chief, Pacific  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern  
Atlantic and Mediterranean  
Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command

Subject: Establishment of Joint Reconnaissance Center (JRC)  
(Short Title, JRC)

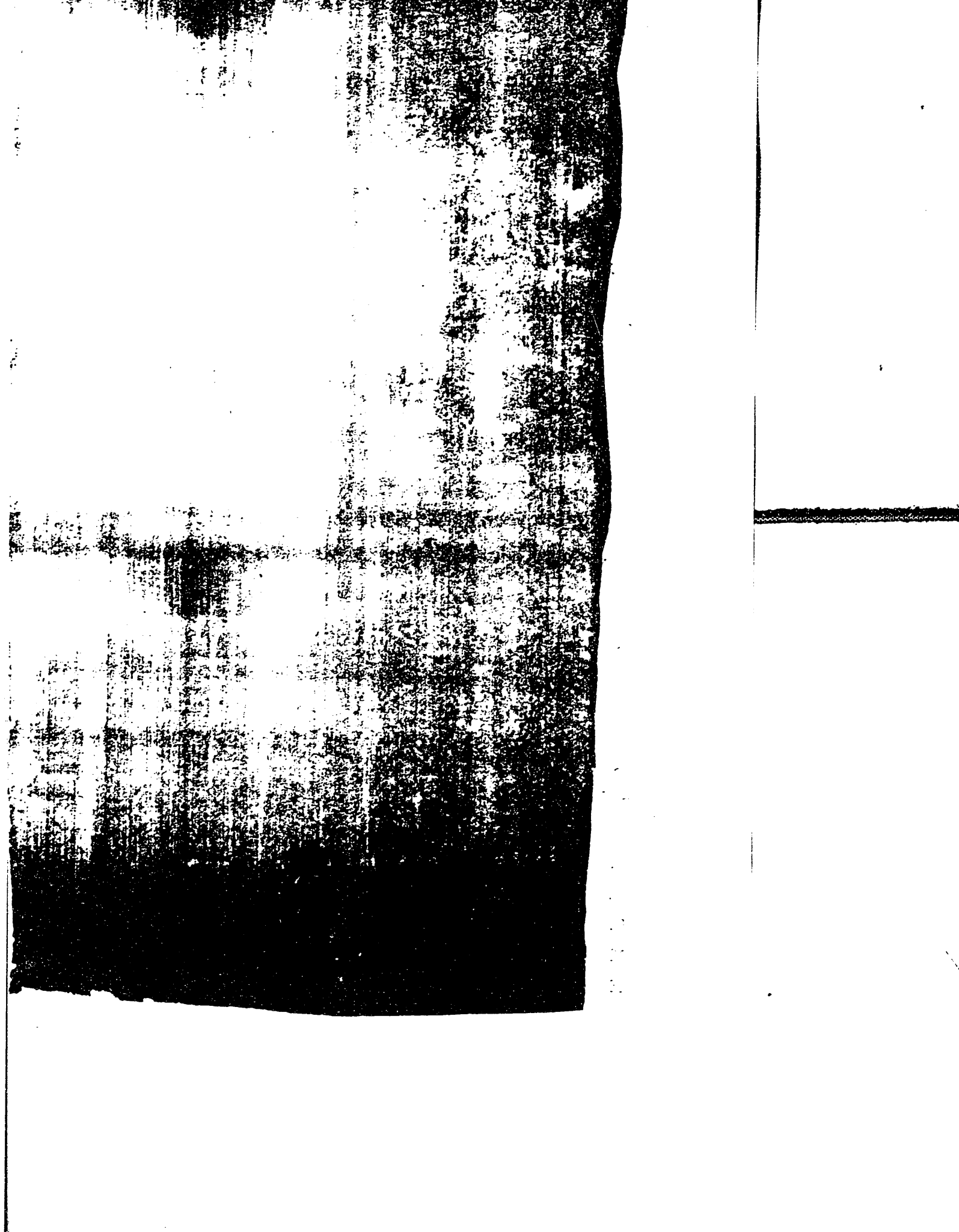
Reference: SM-277-57

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the creation of a  
Joint Reconnaissance Center (JRC) within the Operations  
Directorate, Joint Staff. Upon establishment of this Center,  
the Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, will be responsible  
for planning and coordinating for the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
all matters relating to peripheral reconnaissance of the

[REDACTED]

The Director of the Joint Staff, J-5, is  
currently the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States  
and is responsible for the development of policy,  
planning and execution of operations, and might be likely  
to be involved in the development of other JRCs.

[REDACTED]



4. Functions of the JRC will be to:

a. Review proposed peripheral reconnaissance missions, plans, and programs and transmit to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their consideration those which do not fall within existing guidance, and those which are considered sensitive; i.e. under existing conditions, might seriously affect other U. S. operations and programs.

b. Keep the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed on all proposed reconnaissance operations of particular interest, the results thereof, and requirements generated thereby. Designated representatives will arrange for special presentations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other appropriate government officials.

c. Convey decisions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on peripheral reconnaissance matters to commanders and Services concerned.

d. Maintain liaison with the Secretary of Defense.

e. Perform liaison with the Department of State or other government departments and agencies on peripheral reconnaissance operations to assure that:

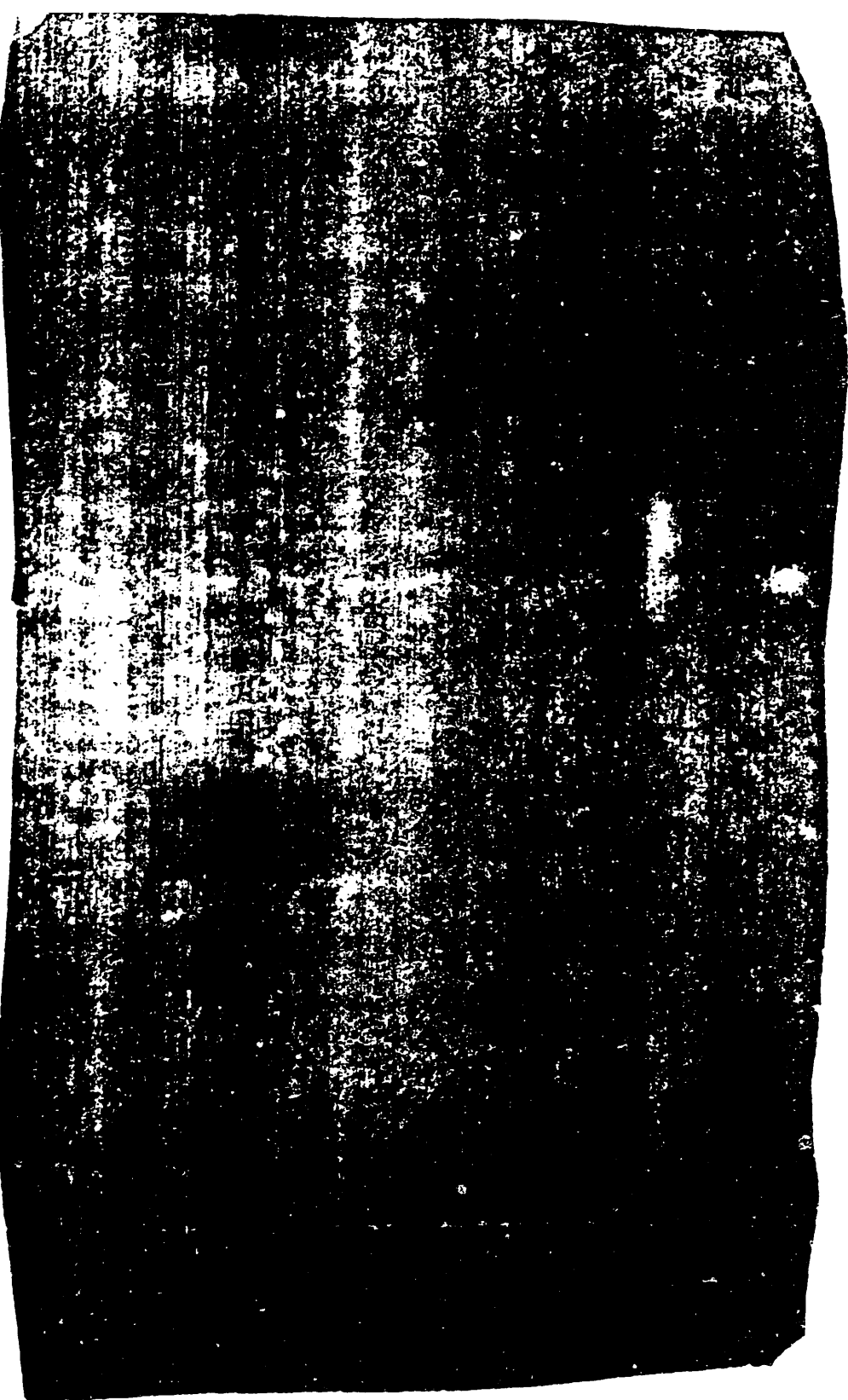
(1) Programs or activities proposed by these agencies 1  
are considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, if 2  
appropriate. 3

(2) The Joint Chiefs of Staff are informed, as required, 4  
on such proposed activities and the results thereof, 5  
and that, 6

(3) Coordination with unified and specified commands, 7  
and other departments and agencies as appropriate, has 8  
been carried out. 9

f. Perform other related duties as directed. 10

5. Concept of Operations of the JRC envisages a staff group 11  
of qualified operations officers assigned from the military 12  
departments to the Joint Staff in authorized spaces within 13  
the Operations Directorate, J-3. They will operate in an area 14  
adequately secured to accommodate handling of all categories 15  
of information necessary for evaluation of the operations. They 16  
will receive, review, and maintain current status files and 17  
displays on all U. S. military peripheral reconnaissance opera- 18  
tions, and evaluate each proposed operation. Knowledge of 19  
certain sensitive operations will be strictly limited and access 20  
to such information granted only as specifically authorized 21  
in accordance with existing procedures for maintaining com- 22  
partmented categories. Normal coordination and liaison with 23  
other Joint Staff Directorates and with Service staffs will 24  
be effected for necessary support of these functions. JRC 25  
officers, together with intelligence officers as necessary, 26  
will maintain liaison with other Departments and agencies 27  
concerned for coordination of operations, and will brief 28  
appropriate officials of the Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 29  
Department of Defense, Department of State, and White House on 30  
sensitive operations. Other staff entities concerned will 31  
provide direct support and information to the JRC as required. 32



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

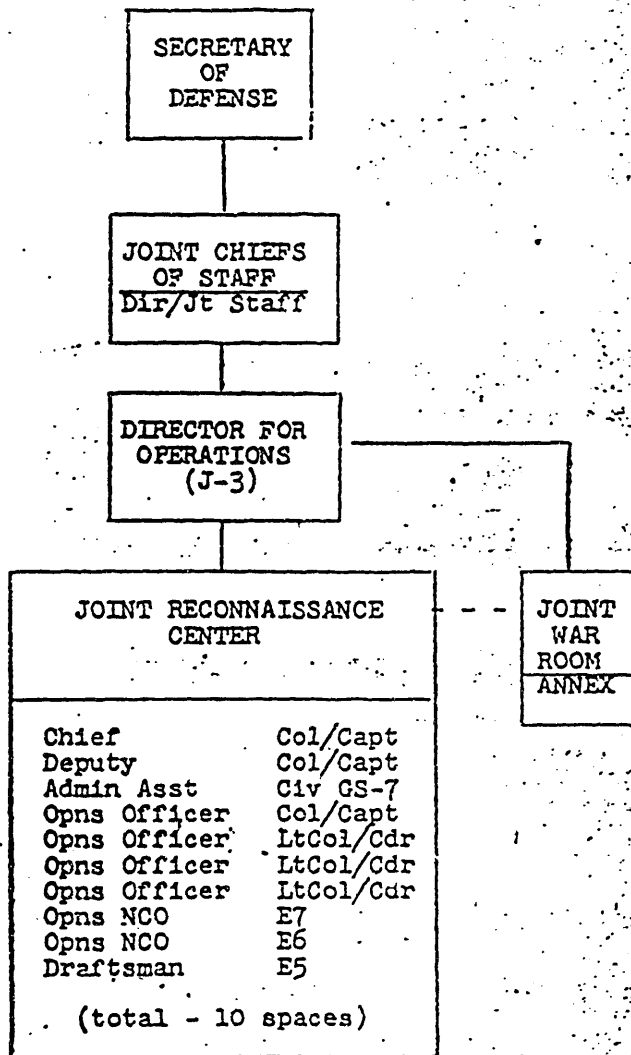
8. Approved organization and manning of the JRC is as shown  
in the Annex hereto. The Director, Joint Staff, will arrange  
for provision of the necessary manning documents and of funds  
required for necessary structural changes.

10  
11  
12  
13



ANNEX  
DRAFT

ORGANIZATION OF THE JOINT RECONNAISSANCE CENTER (U)



--- Liaison

**TRANSCRIBED PAGES FOLLOW**

JCSM-451-60

20 OCT 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Establishment of a Joint Reconnaissance  
Center (U)

1. Events on 1 May 1960 (loss of the U-2) and 1 July 1960 (loss of the RB-47) have focused world attention on reconnaissance operations of all types. Soviet sensitivity to these operations has been clearly indicated. They have become a subject of increased interest to the White House and State Department because of the implications and consequences any further incidents could generate. The White House has advised the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, of its concern, and requested assurances from the Chairman that sensitive military reconnaissance operations are being closely monitored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have accordingly approved the establishment of a Joint Reconnaissance Center (short title "JRC") as an integral part of the Joint Staff under the Director for Operations (J-3), as outlined in the appendix hereto. The JRC will monitor all reconnaissance operations conducted by the unified and specified commands or by their component commands [.....Excised.....]  
[.....Excised.....] It will evaluate and coordinate these operations, transmit to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for approval those which constitute exceptions to approved policy or which might seriously affect other operations or programs under particular existing conditions, and will brief all appropriate authorities on the details and results of such operations. An increase in ten spaces in Joint Staff manpower authorizations and funds to provide for a secure vault-type area in proximity to the Joint War Room will be required.

3. It is recommenmded that you approve the concept as outlined above and in the appendix hereto, including the future additional manpower authorizations and funds to be requested. It is further recommended that you forward copies of the Appendix hereto to the Director, Central Intelligence Agency and the Director, National Security Agency, for their information.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

L. L. LENNITZER  
Chairman,  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

Distr:

Chairman, JCS (2)  
G[?]C  
DCSOPS  
[illegible] CNO (JCS)  
Dir, Plans, AF  
MarCorps L/O  
Dir [?]/S (2)

(JCS 2150/51 - Approved 4 October 1960)

D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff, U.S. Army  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Commander in Chief, Alaska  
Commander in Chief, Atlantic  
Commander in Chief, Caribbean  
Commander in Chief, Continental Air Defense  
Command  
Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command  
Commander in Chief, Pacific  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern  
Atlantic and Mediterranean  
Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command

Subject: Establishment of Joint Reconnaissance Center (U)  
(Short Title, JRC)

Reference: SM-227-57

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the creation of a Joint Reconnaissance Center (JRC) within the Operations Directorate, Joint Staff. Upon establishment of this Center, the Director for Operations, Joint Staff, will be responsible [illegible] and coordinating for the Joint Chiefs of Staff [illegible] pertaining to peripheral reconnaissance operations [.....Excised.....]  
[...Excised...] The Director for Operations, J-3, [illegible] [illegible] by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of those individual[illegible] [illegible] titute exception to approved policy, [illegible] [illegible] sidered sensitive and might be likely to cause [illegible] incidents or seriously affect other U.S. [illegible]

[Excised]

[Excised]

4. Functions of the JRC will be to: 12
- a. Review proposed peripheral reconnaissance 13  
missions, plans, and programs and transmit to the Joint 14  
Chiefs of Staff for their consideration those which do not 15  
fall within existing guidance, and those which are considered 16  
sensitive; i.e. under existing conditions, might seriously 17  
affect other U. S. operations and programs. 18
- b. Keep the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed on all proposed 19  
reconnaissance operations of particular interest, the 20  
results thereof, and requirements generated thereby. 21  
Designated representatives will arrange for special 22  
presentations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other 23  
appropriate government officials. 24
- c. Convey decisions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on peripheral 25  
reconnaissance matters to commanders and Services concerned. 26
- d. Maintain liaison with the Secretary of Defense. 27
- e. Perform liaison with the Department of State or other 28  
government departments and agencies on peripheral 29  
reconnaissance operations to assure that: 30