

DEFENSE NOTES

ON

NICKERSON CASE

Specification 1: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, during the period from on or about 30 November to 4 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 12 and 57, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by writing a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", consisting of twelve (12) pages, said document containing secret defense information, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in serious damage to the United States, without physically marking said document with the proper military security classification, to wit: Secret.

Specification 2: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, during the period from on or about 5 December 1956 to 10 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 12 and 57, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by writing a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", consisting of fourteen (14) pages, said document containing secret defense information, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in serious damage to the United States, without physically marking said document with the proper military security classification, to wit: Secret.

Specification 3: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 4 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 57 and 79, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing the reproduction of a document containing secret defense information entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", twelve (12) pages in length, and with an inclosure, making a total of twenty-one (21) pages, without marking such document with the classification Secret and without properly safeguarding this secret defense information.

Specification 4: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 5 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 57 and 79, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing the reproduction of two documents containing secret defense information entitled "Memorandum for the Secretary of the Army / The Secretary of the Navy, subject, Management of the IRM #2 Development Program", dated 9 November 1955, from G. E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense and "Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, subject, Adjustment of Army/Air Force Differences", dated 14 August 1956, from Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of the Air Force, without marking such documents with the classification secret and without properly safeguarding this secret defense information.

Specification 5: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 10 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 57 and 79, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing the reproduction of a document containing secret defense information entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", fourteen (14) pages in length, without marking such document with the classification secret and without properly safeguarding this secret defense information.

Specification 6: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 13 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraphs 57 and 79, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing the reproduction of a document containing secret defense information entitled "Memorandum for Secretary of Defense, subject: Adjustment of Army-Air Force Differences", dated 10 September 1956, from Wilber M. Bruner, Secretary of the Army, said document consisting of eight (8) pages, without marking such document with the classification secret and without properly safeguarding this secret defense information.

Specification 7: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 27 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraphs 57 and 79, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing the reproduction of four documents containing secret defense information entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", fourteen (14) pages in length; "Memorandum for the Secretary of the Army/The Secretary of the Navy, subject, Management of the IRM #2 Development Program", dated 9 November 1955, from C. E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense; "Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, subject, Adjustment of Army/Air Force 'Difference'", dated 14 August 1956, from Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of Air Force; and "Memorandum for Secretary of Defense, Subject: Adjustment of Army/Air Force Differences", dated 10 September 1956, from Wilbur M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army, without marking such documents with the classification secret and without properly safeguarding this secret defense information.

Specification 8: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, during the period from on or about 1 December 1956 to 15 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraph 40, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing Lieutenant Colonel Lee E. James to transmit and deliver secret defense information contained in a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", twelve (12) pages in length, to the office of Drew Pearson, Washington, D. C., whereby it came into the possession of Jack Anderson, an associate of Drew Pearson, the said Jack Anderson being an individual who had no official duties requiring knowledge or possession of this secret defense information and who had not been properly cleared to receive such information.

Specification 9: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, during the period from on or about 1 December 1956 to 20 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraph 40, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by causing Walter Wiesman to transmit and deliver secret defense information contained in four documents entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", fourteen (14) pages in length; "Memorandum for the Secretary of the Army/The Secretary of the Navy, subject, Management of the IRM #2 Development Program", dated 9 November 1955, from C. E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense; "Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, subject, Adjustment of Army-Air Force 'Difference'", dated 14 August 1956, from Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of Air Force; and "Memorandum for Secretary of Defense, Subject: Adjustment of Army/Air Force Differences", dated 10 September 1956, from Wilbur M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army to William F. Hunt, Reynolds Metal Company, an individual who had no official duties requiring knowledge or possession of this secret defense information and who had not been properly cleared to receive such information.

Specification 10: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 18 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: Paragraph 40, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by delivering secret defense information contained in four documents entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", fourteen (14) pages in length; "Memorandum for the Secretary of the Army/The Secretary of the Navy, subject, Management of the IRM #2 Development Program", dated 9 November 1955, from C. E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense; "Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, subject, Adjustment of Army-Air Force 'Difference'", dated 14 August 1956, from Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of Air Force; and "Memorandum for Secretary of Defense, Subject: Adjustment of Army/Air Force Differences", dated 10 September 1956, from Wilbur M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army, to John A. Baurang, Radio Corporation of America, an individual who had no official duties requiring knowledge or possession of this secret defense information and who had not been properly cleared to receive such information.

Specification 11: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, in his family quarters on the military reservation, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 2 January 1957, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraphs 36 and 55, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by failing to store and safeguard properly secret defense information, consisting of two secret messages from Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Bengtson, Chief, ARMA Field Office, Bureau of Ordnance, to the Commanding General, ARMA, Huntsville, Alabama, dated 16 November 1956.

Specification 12: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, in his family quarters on the military reservation, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 2 January 1957, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraphs 36 and 55, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by failing to store and safeguard properly secret defense information consisting of a secret document entitled "Army Employment of Jupiter (U)", prepared by Office, Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army, and reported on 11 May 1956 and 16 May 1956.

Specification 13: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, in his family quarters on the military reservation, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 2 January 1957, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraphs 36 and 55, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by failing to store and safeguard properly secret defense information consisting of a secret document, subject, Transmittal of Memo on Conferences Held at JPL and GCR (U), to Chief of Ordnance, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: ORDTU, Col. Nickerson, dated 23 June 1956, with one (1) secret inclosure.

Specification 14: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, in his family quarters on the military reservation, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 2 January 1957, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraphs 36 and 55, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by failing to store and safeguard properly secret defense information consisting of a secret document entitled "Picture Report of Redstone Re-entry and Very High Altitude Missiles (U)", dated 21 July 1956.

Specification 15: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 17 December 1956, violate a lawful general regulation, to wit: paragraph 40, Army Regulation 380-5, dated 7 December 1954, by transmitting and delivering secret defense information, namely three (3) Secret documents as follows: DA Memorandum #172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956, subject, General Preliminary Test Flight Jupiter -C 27 (U); Publication No. 63, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject, Microlocks: A Minimum-Weight Radio Instrumentation System for a Satellite; and Publication No. 68, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject, Development of the High-Speed Stages for the Re-Entry Test Vehicle, to Mr. Erik Bergaust, Editor, *Reckets and Missiles* *and* Magazine, an individual who had no official duties requiring knowledge or possession of this secret defense information and who had not been properly cleared to receive such information.

CHARGE II: Violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 134.

Specification 1: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, having access to and being entrusted with three secret military documents, to wit: DA Memorandum #172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956, subject, General Preliminary Test Flight Jupiter -C 27 (U); Publication No. 63, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject, Microlocks: A Minimum-Weight Radio Instrumentation System for

Specification

(CHARGE II, SPECIFICATION 1 CONTINUED)

a Satellite; and Publication No. 68, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject, Development of the High-Speed Stages for the Re-Entry Test Vehicle, each such Secret document relating to the national defense of the United States and containing information which he had reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 17 December 1956, willfully cause such Secret documents to be transmitted and delivered to Mr. Erik Bergaust, Editor, ^{Missiles and} ~~Rockets and Missiles Magazine~~ ^{Bl}, Washington, D. C., a person not entitled to receive such documents and the Secret information contained therein, an offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 793.

Specification 2: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 2 January 1957, in a statement to Major General D. A. Ogden, The Inspector General, and Colonel R. J. Conran, Assistant Inspector General, Department of the Army, during the course of an official investigation, wrongfully and unlawfully make under lawful oath a statement in substance as follows: that he had nothing to do with getting a copy of a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", to Drew Pearson, in any way, which statement he did not then believe to be true.

Specification 3: In that Colonel John C. Nickerson, Junior, U. S. Army, Ordnance Corps, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, did, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, on or about 10 January 1957, in a statement to Colonels Antulio Segarra and D. J. Richardson, Inspectors General, during the course of an official investigation, wrongfully and unlawfully make under lawful oath a statement in substance as follows: that he did not believe that he gave a copy of a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum", to John A. Bauman, Radio Corporation of America, which statement he did not then believe to be true.

CHARGE I. SPECIFICATIONS 1 - 7

1. "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum" was written as unclassified by Colonel J. C. Nickerson. No reference was made to classified material nor were there any extracts from any classified documents. Classification is largely a matter of judgment. Colonel Nickerson qualifies as one of the top missile experts on this program, both technically and operationally. His judgment on whether an item is classified or unclassified should be at least as acceptable as anyone else's.

2. The three inclosures which were classified "Secret" and which are documents prepared by higher authority were preliminary recommendations leading up to the November 26 Memorandum by Mr. Wilson. The Wilson paper was an official decision and as such should be of more interest and usefulness to the Soviets than should the preliminary documents. Further, the classified information in the three "Secret" documents was actually made public in the Wilson Memorandum. Although the Secret stamp was removed from these documents, they were handled as classified material insofar as Colonel Nickerson's actions and instructions were concerned. These documents did not pass into the hands of persons who were not cleared for "Secret."

CHARGE I. SPECIFICATION 8

1. The investigating officer officially recommended dropping this charge.
2. Colonel J. C. Nickerson gave no instructions, hints, or in any way indicated that anyone in his office was to give a copy of the "Considerations" to Drew Pearson or to any other newspaper medium. Lt. Col. James suggested Drew Pearson's name.
3. Colonel Nickerson wrote the document to be unclassified. He is an expert both operationally and technically in this field. Security is largely a matter of judgment and Colonel Nickerson's judgment should be as good as anyone else's.

CHARGE I, SPECIFICATIONS 9 AND 10

1. Mr. William Hunt and Mr. John Bauman are officially cleared. (See next page.)
2. "Need to know" for material given to Mr. Hunt is obvious. Mr. Hunt was the senior man in Reynolds Metals Co. responsible for the ABMA contract. The Sheffield Plant of Reynolds Metals is entirely devoted to ABMA work.
3. "Need to know" is to be established by the person giving this information to Mr. Hunt--in this case, Mr. Walter Wiesman. His judgment if within the bounds of common sense is to be accepted according to the regulations.
4. Material was only handled by cleared personnel.
5. Colonel Nickerson did not cause Mr. Wiesman to give the document to Mr. Hunt. Mr. Wiesman suggested Mr. Hunt and Reynolds Metals Co. Colonel Nickerson did not meet Mr. Hunt until April 1957.
6. Colonel Nickerson was working intimately with Mr. John Bauman of RCA on new programs for ABMA. His need to know is easily proven. Further, there is no reason why Colonel Nickerson's judgment in this case should not be accepted.
7. RCA treated documents as secret documents. (See affidavit on next page.)

DISPOSITION FORM

FILE NO. ORDAB-8K	SUBJECT Notification of Security Clearances		
TO Lt Col Zimmer Defense Counsel, Col John C. Nickerson	FROM Intell & Scty. Ofc, ABMA	DATE 16 Feb 1957	COMMENT NO. 1 Lt Col Killough/ro

The files of this office indicate that Mr William F. Hunt, Reynolds Metal Co. and Mr J. A. Bauman of Radio Corporation of America, have SECRET Security Clearances.

James S. Killough.
JAMES S. KILLOUGH, Lt Col, MPC
Intelligence & Security Officer

AFFIDAVIT

I, John A. Baumann, with offices at Front and Cooper Streets, Camden, New Jersey, being duly sworn according to law, do hereby declare the following facts to be true according to my best recollections:

On December 18, 1956, when I was in the office of Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr., United States Army, at the Army Ballistic Missiles Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama on business matters, Col. Nickerson handed me a document entitled "Considerations on the Wilson Memorandum".

At the time that Col. Nickerson gave me this document he mentioned that the last three enclosures had been officially classified and should be handled as such, but that there was nothing contained in them which had not been released in the Wilson Memorandum or in speeches before the Association of the United States Army. Col. Nickerson stated further that the basic paper had been written by him as an unclassified document but that it contained certain information which might be considered sensitive in some Department of Defense circles. It appeared that he did not expect that I would utilize this information outside of cleared channels. As a result of the circumstances mentioned above, the subject document, while under my control, was handled with all the precautions of a sensitive document.

Sworn to and Subscribed before
me this 17 day of January, 1957.

John A. Baumann

Wm. A. Drake
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: January 29, 1960

CC: Inspector General (2)
Department of Army
Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.
Att: Col. Conran

Inspector General (2)
Third Army
Fort McPherson
Atlanta, Georgia
Att: Col. Segara

Col. John C. Nickerson (2)
Army Ballistic Missiles
Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

CHARGE I, SPECIFICATIONS 11 AND 12

1. Colonel Nickerson brought these documents to his quarters in his brief case on the afternoon of January 2. He was placed under arrest in such a manner as to prevent him from taking his brief case with him. The documents, however, were under the custody of the Military Police and were, therefore, properly safe-guarded.
2. Quarters 811 is on the Redstone Arsenal and in a remote area surrounded by the Wheeler Reservoir on three sides.

CHARGE I, SPECIFICATIONS 13 AND 14

1. These documents were outdated documents of historical interest primarily. Colonel Nickerson was using them to prepare papers on Army participation in the scientific satellite program.
2. Colonel Nickerson held declassification authority over these documents when he removed them from the files in the Office Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C. Colonel Nickerson considered these documents declassified but had been too busy to mark through the Secret stamp as prescribed by regulations.

CHARGE I, SPECIFICATION 15

1. Key information had been released officially by a Congressional Committee.
2. Key information had appeared repeatedly in the newspapers and the technical press.
3. Colonel J. C. Nickerson and his closest associates considered these documents can and should be declassified. (See statements attached.)
4. The security lid on this information shows bias on the part of the Defense Department toward the Air Force. There is no other good reason for the actions taken in keeping this information from the public.

Expected Testimony of Dr. von Braun, Director of Development Operations,
ABMA

I received my BS in Aircraft Engineering in 1932 and my PHD in Physics in 1934. From November 1932 I was employed by the German Ordnance Corps on experimental work in the rocket field. I worked full time at this job from 1934 on. In 1937 I moved to Peenemunde with my associates and served as Technical Director until the end of the war. I surrendered to the American Army and came to this country at the invitation of the United States Army in September 1945, and have since become an American citizen.

My associates and I first worked at Ft. Bliss. In 1950 we moved to the recently reactivated Huntsville Arsenal where I served as the head of the Guided Missiles Operation Division during the development of the Redstone Missile. In February 1956 when the Army Ballistic Missile Agency was established I became director of the Development Operation Division of that Agency.

I am familiar with DA Memo Number 172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956, subject: "General Preliminary Test-Flight Jupiter C-27"; Publication Number 63, Jet Propulsion Laboratory CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject: "Microlock, Minimum Weight Instrumentation System for a Satellite"; and Publication Number 68, Jet Propulsion Laboratory CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject: "Development of High Speed Stages for the Re-Entry of an Air Test Vehicle". In my professional opinion, there is nothing in any of those documents which could be used to the injury of the United States or the advantage of a foreign nation.

I first met Colonel Nickerson in 1953 when he was in the Rocket Branch of Ordnance Research and Development in Washington. He kept us notified as to meetings we should get to and so forth. Colonel Nickerson became our best representative in Washington - when our program hit a snag, he made sure we were able to defend ourselves. When we were nearing completion of the Redstone Missile it became obvious that we needed a new, challenging project in order to keep our team from scattering into private industry. Colonel Nickerson worked toward obtaining the Jupiter project for the Army. My feeling is that it was mainly due to his foresight and the actions that he took that the Ordnance Corps in Washington and the Department of Defense decided to establish the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. Without Colonel Nickerson's foresight, ability, aggressiveness and grasp of development problems, there would be no Redstone Missile, no Vanguard Program, no ABMA and no Jupiter Program. Further, Soviet Russia would hold the ballistic missile records for speed, height and range instead of the United States. Not only has Colonel Nickerson worked very hard for our program, but he also has considerable technical

ability in this field. I have a very high opinion of his judgment on what is feasible, what is possible, what one should fight for, and what can really be produced as compared to empty promises. He has a ready grasp of the over-all problems in the missile development field.

In my dealings with Colonel Nickerson I have always found him to be frank and straightforward and have never had any reason to believe he would tell an untruth under any circumstances. In a business where it is common to promise more than you really can produce, Colonel Nickerson has been conspicuous for his insistence that we always promise only what we can produce. His untiring efforts on behalf of the national defense and scrupulous honesty make it clear that he would never willfully take part in any action he thought could harm the United States or aid a hostile power.

Expected Testimony of Dr. C. A. Lundquist

I received a Bachelors Degree from South Dakota State College and a PHD from the University of Kansas in 1953. I served as Assistant Professor of Engineering Research at Pennsylvania State University until I entered the Army. While in the Army, I worked at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and after my separation I became Chief of the Physics and Astrophysics Section of the Research Projects office at ABMA.

I am familiar with DA Memorandum 172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956; Publication Number 63, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, dated 13 April 1956; and Publication Number 68, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, dated 13 April 1956. It is my professional opinion that none of these documents contain information which would be of appreciable value to a potential enemy. Of course, you can say that any document, even the New York telephone book, could be of value to the enemy since, for instance, factory locations would be listed in a phone book. But this is stretching pretty far and I would say that the materials mentioned above is of no greater interest or value to a potential enemy than a telephone book.

I met Colonel Nickerson in the fall of 1954. I feel that he shows great technical competence in the ballistic missile field. He is a great asset to our team here since he combines some knowledge which is vitally needed by us. There is a need for someone who understands the political and military ramifications of the technical work and also has a good foundation in the scientific side of it - in other words, a bridge between the purely scientific aspects of the problem and the more utilitarian or administrative and political side of the problems in hand. This position is very essential to our organization and Colonel Nickerson performs his duties in this area in an outstanding manner. I would like to add that from my relationship with Colonel Nickerson I have been impressed by his honesty and truthfulness, and I have no reason to believe he would ever tell an untruth. I feel that the loss of Colonel Nickerson from our team would surely be a blow to us.

Expected Testimony of Mr. Rudolph Schlidt

I received my degree in Mechanical Engineering and in 1942 I began to work at the Rocket Center at Peenemunde, working on guided missiles fuel. I surrendered to American troops and came to this country at the invitation of the United States Army and I have become an American citizen. While in this country I have worked for the Army Ordnance Corps at Fort Bliss and at Redstone Arsenal. I worked on the development of the Redstone Missile, and I now work at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency on development of the Jupiter Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile.

I am familiar with the following documents. DA Memorandum Number 172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956; subject: "General Preliminary Test Flight Jupiter C-27"; Publication Number 63, Jet Propulsion Laboratory CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject: "Microlock, a Minimum Weight Radio Instrumentation for a Satellite"; and Publication Number 68, Jet Propulsion Laboratory CIT, dated 13 April 1956, subject: "Development of the High-Speed Stages for the Re-Entry Test Vehicle". I do not believe that any of these documents contain information which, if it were made public, could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a potential enemy.

I have known Colonel Nickerson for several years. I have been very favorably impressed with his technical abilities from my first contacts with him. His approach to missile programs, the way he checked details and his familiarity with missile criteria was very impressive. He has been very hard working; he worked many Saturdays and Sundays, and he was instrumental in obtaining the Jupiter program for the Army.

In all of my dealings with Colonel Nickerson, he has been frank and completely honest, and I do not believe he would ever state an untruth either under oath, or otherwise. Based on my wide experiences with officers in both the German and American Armies, including service under Field Marshall Rommell when he was a battalion commander, I would class Colonel Nickerson as a superior officer.

Expected Testimony of Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger

I attended Munich University and the University of Koenigsberg before I finished my studies at Tuebingen University in Germany with a PHD in Physics. After receiving my degree, I went to Berlin to the Institute of Technology, where I was Assistant Professor until 1941. From 1941 until 1943, I was a member of the German Army with the rank of Private First Class. In April of 1943, I joined the team of rocket scientists at Peenemunde and remained there until the end of the war. After the war, I went back to my old university where I was instructor until January 1946, when I came to this country, upon the invitation of the U. S. Army. Since that time, I have become a citizen of the U. S.

At present time, I am the Director of the Research Projects Office in ABMA. That office has two missions. One is to act as a kind of scientific G2 for ABMA. That is: we find out and compile all kinds of scientific information. This is not a secret action. The second part of the mission of my office is to do research work with my associates in the field of advanced missile assignments.

I am familiar with DA Memorandum Number 172, Aeroballistics Memorandum, dated 21 November 1956, Subject: "Preliminary Test Flight Jupiter C", and with Publication Number 63, Jet Propulsion CIT, subject: "Microlock Radio Instrumentation System for a Satellite", and with Publication Number 68, Jet Propulsion CIT dated 13 April 1956, subject: "Development of the High Speed Stages for the Re-Entry Test Vehicle". I have studied all these documents many times; and in my professional opinion, there is nothing contained in them which would aid any enemy or be of actual damage to us. That is so because the average team of scientists can get this data from data that has already been published in newspapers, magazines, and scientific journals. None of the documents contained material which could be of value to an enemy, such as the accuracy of tactical missiles, production secrets of tactical missiles, availability of missiles, and the CPE of tactical missiles.

To sum it up, The Wilson Memorandum certainly raised the possibility that unless we can find some use here by new projects or by other projects that have an appeal to our team, the team will break up and be irretrievably scattered. It takes at least 10 years to build a good working team, that is to say, the key members should have been working together for at least that long.

Maybe I am prejudiced, but in my opinion it would be detrimental to the security of the U. S. if our team was broken up, and I think everybody must admit that no other team has produced a missile of the magnitude and state of completion of the Redstone Missile.

I knew that Colonel Nickerson was familiar with the three documents mentioned and that he believed that all three could and should be declassified. Publication would have been of great value to the U. S. because it would have added to the prestige of the U. S. all over the world.

January 18, 1957

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is my understanding that questions have been raised regarding the release of information concerning a long-range test held in the Fall of 1956, some details of which are discussed in Jet Propulsion Laboratory Publications No. 63 and No. 68. These two documents contain descriptions of micro-lock radio instrumentation equipment and some solid propellant rocket components.

Items of these types have been discussed in open literature and, in fact, this Laboratory has recently written two unclassified reports containing detailed information about the micro-lock equipment.

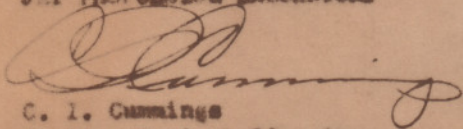
It is my opinion that discussion of these items in open literature and in publicity releases would be in the best interests of the United States Government and would in no way violate the security laws of this land. Subsequent to the test last Fall utilizing these items, Colonel Nickerson expressed to me his opinion that this information was being kept classified so as to prevent the Army from obtaining proper public credit for its accomplishments. I share this opinion for I believe that, in truth, release of this specific information lies in the same category as the release of information concerning the equipment which will be used in the Navy's Operation Vanguard Satellite Program.

I have known Colonel Nickerson personally for many years and have always found that in all respects he has had the best interests of the United States Army, our Government, and our National security foremost in his action and thoughts.

Very truly yours,

Original notarized by
Verna L. Putnam

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY


C. I. Cummings
Jupiter Project Director

CIC:dh

Distribution

Inspector General (2)
Department of the Army
Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: Colonel Conran

Inspector General (2)
Third Army
Ft. McPherson
Atlanta, Georgia
Attention: Colonel Segara

Col. J. C. Nickerson (3)
c/o Military Counsel
Hq., AFMA
Montevallo, Alabama

jpl
JET PROPULSION LABORATORY California Institute of Technology • 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena 3, California

January 18, 1957

Inspector General
Third Army
Fort McPherson
Atlanta, Georgia

Attention: Col. Segara

Dear Sir:

Subject: Col. J. C. Mickerson

It is my understanding that the documents in this investigation include certain publications of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory which refer to portions of a long range rocket test vehicle program. The basic technical ideas for the propulsion system of this test vehicle have been widely discussed in the technical and semi-technical literature for the past several years. The instrumentation system known as "microlock" is an invention of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory which has been described in two unclassified Laboratory reports published within the last three months.

In view of these facts it is my opinion that the best interests of the Army would have been served by de-classifying the results of the long range firing. The actual situation is that much information on this test has appeared in magazines and in the press, almost from the day of the firing. Obviously these press stories have been garbled and a factual statement of the real purpose of the experiment and of the actual results is badly needed.

The technical description of Project Vanguard, the earth satellite rocket, has been published both in this country and abroad. It would therefore appear to be not only to the best interests of the Army, but also of the United States, to release the results of this experiment, as an indication of the state of progress of United States technology in this field and of the probability of success of the U.S. I.G.I. satellite program.

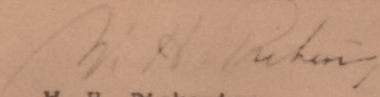
In conversations with me shortly after the test, Col. Mickerson stated that he felt very strongly that information on the results of the test could and should be de-classified.

Col. Mickerson is an officer with an excellent technical background. In my association with him I have found him to be most diligent in pursuing the best interests of the Army in the guided missile field.

Original letter Notarized
by Verna K. Putnam, Notary Public,
Commission expires July 7, 1960

Yours very truly,

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY


W. H. Pickering
Director

WHP:s

January 18, 1957

Inspector General
Department of the Army
Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: Col. J. C. Nickerson

Dear Sir:

I should like to comment upon certain aspects of a situation in which I am told Col. J. C. Nickerson is involved. My position is one of initiating and directing research in electronic techniques. I am not legally informed and do not intend to voice legal opinions in any way. On technical matters in electronics, however, I have reasonably qualified opinions.

Several years ago, engineers in missile electronic research began considering the challenging problem of electronic solutions to the problems of detection and telemetering from satellites. A vast amount of literature was available on the heart of the problem: the detection of weak signals in noise. Bibliographies alone take a volume to list. Many solutions were proposed, most of which were presented in unclassified form as programs for Operation Vanguard. One such solution was Wicklock, an invention of this Laboratory now generally recognized as an ingenious use of information theory.

Another solution was Mindtrack, an admittedly more conventional proposal by the Naval Research Laboratories.

The awarding of Vanguard to the Navy had many results. One was the automatic establishment of NRL as the satellite electronics agency. Another curious and perhaps unintended result was that research in anything with a possible satellite application either had to funnel into Vanguard or else be subject to strong criticism as an attempt to play service politics.

It appeared to me that both the Army and the Air Force reaction to this situation was to classify work which might be subject to such criticism. The use of security classification rather than simply restricted or delayed publication meant that virtually all Army electronic advances with satellite potential were denied the credit they deserved. This was in marked contrast to Navy work in the same field, freely published in many technical journals. At the very least, Army work was

withheld so long by efforts at declassification that, when published, it lacked impact. The Microlock technique has been through this experience, finally returning to an unclassified status with JPL publication 20-308 dated 11-14-56.

This report is essentially a re-write of JPL publication 63 with certain deletions. The deletions do not involve electronics. Col. Mickerson was closely connected with Microlock technique and, in conversations with me, stated that he felt that classification of Microlock was unfortunate, unrealistic, and quite possibly subject to declassification at any time. In addition it was recognized that declassification would have no relation to technical content.

Denied the use of open literature, Microlock nevertheless received extreme interest by companies in the know in the Air Force. No Army contractor as yet has contacted this Laboratory. Numerous incorrect reports have circulated, none of which could be corrected until publication 20-308. This report, unclassified, must pass through another approval before it can be published in technical journals. Such approval and publication is anticipated.

In conclusion, I believe that any part which Col. Mickerson may have had in publicizing Microlock was done in good faith that he was acting in the best interests of the Army and the country, and that he was not revealing any information detrimental to the United States and beneficial to a potential enemy. I restrict my opinions to Microlock only because I do not feel qualified to speak on non-electronic matters.

January 18, 1957

Richard K. Reichtin

County of Los Angeles

Notary Public

My Commission Expires July 7, 1960

Sincerely,

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

Richard K. Reichtin

Eberhardt Reichtin, Chief
Electronic Research Section

ER:kh

CHARGE 2, SPECIFICATION 1 (Espionage Charge)

1. This charge was recommended dropped by the investigating officer.
2. Colonel Nickerson considered these documents could and should be declassified. (These are same documents listed in Charge I, Specification 15). See statements made under Charge I, Specification 15.
3. Most of Colonel Nickerson's actions were directed toward getting a weapon for the Army. His dedication to the Army and the defense of the U. S. are completely inconsistent with a willful act which he knew could cause harm to the United States. All who know him will testify that they believe he would not do such a thing.
4. He took effective steps to recover these documents before they were compromised. (See affidavit attached.)

STATE OF ALABAMA
MADISON COUNTY

On the evening of 19 December 1956, Col. J. C. Nickerson phoned me at my home near Hazel Green, Alabama and stated that certain documents had been mailed by mistake to Mr. Bergaust of American Aviation Publications of which I am the accredited local correspondent. Col. Nickerson requested that I ask Mr. Bergaust to return these documents at once by registered mail without opening them. On December 20 I talked to Mr. Bergaust in Washington, D. C. by phone and relayed this request. Mr. Bergaust assured me this would be done immediately.

Louis O. Smith

sworn to and subscribed before me this the 12th day of January,

1957.

Mary F. Lyon
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 20, 1960

CHARGE II, SPECIFICATION 2 (False Swearing)

1. The investigating officer recommended dropping this charge.
2. This statement was not in answer to a question but was volunteered. Actually, it was blurted out inadvertently in a state of mental shock when Colonel Nickerson was told that the "Considerations" paper had gotten to the Air Force.
3. Investigators already knew that Colonel Nickerson had written paper and Colonel Nickerson had already admitted writing it.
4. Col. Nickerson, at the time the statement was made, thought that some Congressman had passed the paper to Pearson.

CHARGE II, SPECIFICATION 3 (False Swearing)

1. Colonel J. C. Nickerson did not remember giving copy to Mr. John Bauman. He still does not remember giving a copy of the "Considerations" to Mr. John Bauman.
2. Colonel Nickerson had no motive for not revealing that he gave one to Bauman if he had actually remembered. Mr. Bauman was cleared and had a need to know through intimate connections with the Jupiter Program.
3. Colonel Nickerson admitted freely all matters connected with the case including the much more serious act of sending documents without removing the security classification to Mr. Erik Bergaust.
4. Colonel Nickerson handled large numbers of important documents. It is unreasonable to expect that he would remember the disposition of every one of them.
5. This statement was made on the 10th of January to the I. G. during the Third Army Inspector General's investigation. These notes are attached. Note No. 6 shows that Colonel Nickerson did not believe the I. G. even after the I. G. had told him that Bauman had gotten copy.
6. An extract from Colonel Nickerson's diary on this case is also shown. This item, No. 13, dated January 17, 1957, was made shortly before phoning Mr. John Bauman to ask for the affidavit submitted by him for the I. G. investigation. This note shows that Colonel Nickerson still did not remember giving a copy to Bauman.
7. The Inspector Generals repeatedly stated that Colonel Nickerson had been a cooperative witness. Ordinarily a cooperative witness does not have the testimony he gives with a helpful attitude used as the basis for amplifying charges. It normally operates to reduce the severity of the charges.
8. Colonel Zimmer, the military defense counsel, states that the espionage charge and both of the false swearing charges were surprises to Colonel Nickerson and to himself.

AR-20-30 - Par 8 -

I said I had not

1. ~~Did~~ not follow Gen Medaris
directive.

2. Think of any thing he or
she may do to obtain further
favorable action
Army case re Wilson Memo -

3. Instruct officer to contact Jones
Rep of N.C.

I stated I would do what I
could to change directive.

26 Nov.

Would be out if caught
with directive.

Did I decide Army had a
problem?

6. One may have gotten to Basman.

7. Publication No. 63

Microloc: A Minimum-Weight
Radio Instrumentation
System for a Satellite.

Publication No. 68

Development of the High Speed
Stages for the Reentry
Test Vehicle.

DA Memorandum #172

Aeroballistics Memo

Spencer

17

19 Dec Willbonstein Paid him.

Office of the Insp Gen Not later
Hqs 4th Army than noon
Ft McPherson of 19th day
 of Jan 1957

63
Attn: ^{Col} A. S. [unclear]

13. 1/19/587 John Bannan

12.000 I give him copy.

CHARACTER LETTERS

CITY OF PRINCETON INDIANA

RALPH M. WILTSIE, MAYOR
VIOLA C. HUHNKE, CLERK-TREASURER

March 6, 1957

Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr.
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Colonel:

I have been reading recently of your squabble with Secretary Wilson et al, and although I only know what I read in the newspapers, I am sure you are not guilty of any charges against the government. My purpose in writing this letter is to tell you that if I can be of any help in any way, such as a character witness, or in any other manner, I would be glad to come down and testify or offer my services to help you.

As I mentioned before, newspaper accounts are far from accurate, and since I have been in politics for the past year or so, I realize that more every day. We have just gone through a very bitter strike and labor dispute that resulted in enough violence that you may have read about some of the affairs in the newspapers. I am glad to say that the bitter strike is over, but we still have a worresome one in a local telephone strike. If this type of thing continues, I don't think I will be interested in any more political offices after I have served my present four year term.

Since we found out by a Christmas card that you were in Huntsville, Alabama, Jane and I have threatened several times to stop by to see you, the Thurston's in Birmingham, and General Pickering in Atlanta. So far it has been just talk as you know we now have three children ages eleven, three, and two, and it is rather difficult to get away with the two young children.

With best regards to you, Mrs. Nickerson, and the family, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. M. Wiltsie

Ralph M. Wiltsie, Mayor

HEADQUARTERS
ORDNANCE WEAPONS COMMAND
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

HSedrel/mel/805

IN REPLY
REFER TO
ORDOW-OCPA
- - -

13 March 1957

Colonel John Nickerson
Army Ballistic Missile Agency
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Colonel Nickerson:

Occasionally we see your name in the newspapers in connection with the charges which have been placed against you.

Several of us who were on the Personnel Task Group which was in ABMA a year ago are now with the Ordnance Civilian Personnel Agency. We learned to respect you a great deal during that period. We admire your aggressiveness, your judgment, and your devotion to your duty as an Officer in the Ordnance Corps and your interest in the defense and the welfare of the nation. The Army and the Corps certainly has need for men with the attitude, the aggressiveness, and the sincerity which we believe you have.

We are of course unacquainted with the details of this particular case. They do not effect the high regard which we have for you. If anything they heighten our respect for your willingness to crusade for the things you believe to be right.

With very best wishes I remain

Most sincerely yours,

Harold Sedrel

HAROLD SEDREL, Director
Ordnance Civilian Personnel Agency

Ann Jen

JULIAN ROBERTSON
SALISBURY
NORTH CAROLINA
March 13, 1957

Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr.
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Nick:

There hasn't been a day in the last couple of months that I have not thought about you and had the feeling that I ought to be able to do something to help you to come clear of the charges that have been made and to carry the point you are attempting to make. However, I have done nothing about these good intentions except to discuss them with Blanche and from the beginning to express an opinion that the trouble developed from a situation just about as it has been described by your supporters in the Press and by you on television.

You should not need any witnesses of the type who could testify to your loyalty, initiative and scientific curiosity about various weapons. I suspect you and I did some of the first work that was ever done in the field with rockets outside of Brest and I distinctly remember being thoroughly scared when you attempted to dis-assemble one of those hand rocket launchers that the Germans used against tanks.

About all I am really attempting to say here is that of course I understand that it would be well nigh impossible for you not to have taken the position you did. Someone else will have to decide as to whether what you did was right or wrong, but if it is a question of your intent and your record, I might be one of the best qualified people alive to testify in your behalf and I would be proud to do so if you can use me.

*I started out to write this but
can talk so much better into a
dictaphone that I switched. It could
be that I might help your case
and thereby, your cause. Let me
know if you want me.*

JULIAN ROBERTSON
SALISBURY
NORTH CAROLINA

We now have an A no. 1 grandson who is the head man at our house this week. He lives in Raleigh and it is an event to have him and Blanche here.

Wyndham has been elected Pres. of the Student Body at Hollis for next year. She's a very satisfactory and very well rounded young woman — and incidentally my eye balls.

Julia is a Lt. Jg. and loves the Navy — who wouldn't? He gets out in July but goes to the med. in May.

Hope you aren't worrying too much about all this. Give Carol our love and keep your chin up. "Curly".
(Hardly a one left.)

Class note
23 March 1957

Dear "Nick",

As you know, we are back in our home in California and being near JPL and the various places where you and I were associated together in our mutual efforts for better weapons, it makes me especially mindful of the situation in which you ^{now} find yourself. Rest assured that you have my confidence in that you did what you believe to be in the best interests of the U.S. Army and I hope that my statement of such confidence will be of some encouragement to you.

As soon as I read the charges made against you, I thought of the times when you and I wrote official reports and talked to higher echelons - you in the then Army Ground Force and I in Ordnance - to keep the "Coyne" program from being cancelled in favor of the "Hermes" - and we were given some pretty rough replies. But the years since have proven that our evaluation was correct - the "Coyne" is operational and in production.

It will be truly interesting to learn the final outcome of the "Jupiter". I have been "out of touch" with the Army missiles since 1951 so I have no basis for a personal opinion but I am sure that you had the facts and that you were doing your best to present those facts to someone who could

bring them to the attention of proper authorities. I know that you are loyal to the Army and had no intent to disclose classified information to unauthorized persons, so I feel that you are innocent of the charges.

In my unit for Arthur D. Kittle, Inc., I have frequent contacts with several mutual acquaintances: so Tommie Gunn, Bill Pincering, Howard Seifert, Sol Duvey and Dale Bagley. Edyth Dyer is still at J.P.h. but Myrtle Small is out L.A. O.D. Myrtle Yoman is in the Ordnance office at Firestone, Southgate, and Julie Seal Kay is with Social Security. Bill Russell and John Crum (~~both Army~~ ^{both Army} student officers at Catteluck when you were there) are out of the Army and working at Ramo Woodridge.

I think Evelyn has written other news of us to Lard, so I will not repeat. When this trial business is all over, I would like very much to hear from you all with news of you and yours. Sincere best wishes — and keep your chin up.

fincerely,
Ben Mesick

2630 South Nelson Street
Arlington, Virginia
7 March 1957

Colonel Charles R. Eimer
The Post Judge Advocate
Fort Detrick, Alaska

Dear Colonel Eimer:

I am very glad to give the requested information on Colonel John G. Mickerson, Jr.

I was chief of the Rocket Branch, Research and Development Division, Office of the Chief of Ordnance, from early 1952 to my retirement 30 August 1954. In that position I was responsible to the Chief of the Research and Development Division, an Assistant Chief of Ordnance, for Ordnance research and development on all guided missiles and rockets of every type, other than direct responsibility for warheads and fuses and other than the "basecoks". Colonel Mickerson was deputy chief of the branch for the last eight or ten months of that time.

Colonel Mickerson succeeded an officer of most unusual ability and high reputation. His performance however did not suffer by comparison with the unquestionably "superior" one before him. I relied on him especially in problems concerning the phasing of nuclear warhead development with that of the missiles themselves, but also in numerous other problems concerning development of guided missiles and rockets. These involved extremely numerous contacts with scientists of national reputation, scientific and engineering establishments under contract for guided missile and rocket research and development, and the Office of the Chief of Staff which followed progress with close interest. Colonel Mickerson performed these exacting duties in a superior manner. *I put full confidence in him, and never had the least occasion to regret it.*

It would have been impossible for Colonel Mickerson to perform deficiently in truthfulness, integrity, and reliability as an officer without it coming to light in duties of the above nature, even should I have failed to observe such misconduct myself. Specifically to your inquiry on those characteristics, however, my opinion is that Colonel Mickerson possesses them in the high, in fact absolute, degree necessary for a regular officer.

Should I be returned to the active list, I would do my utmost to obtain his assignment to my command.

Very truly yours,

J. Eimer

Herbert Neumann
45 Wadsworth Terrace
New York City - 40

March - 9 - 1957

Dear Sir.

Your great trial seems to be almost a personal matter to me. You were the greatest Battalion Commander a soldier ever had.

No matter what the issue - I am all for you, rooting for you and I hope you will win.

Cordially yours
Herbert Neumann

P.S. I used to serve your meals in the Officers in Ireland and later Cannonier in B Coy "A" 56th F.A. under Carter.

Ans. 5/12

615 East 14th St.

New York 29 N.Y.

April 9, 1957

Colonel John C. McKuson
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville Alabama

Dear Colonel:

Before expressing my confidence in your
stand, I must first introduce myself to you
again, as many years have elapsed since our
last contact.

My name is Bernard J. Zeraben. In 1941
I was inducted into the Army, and assigned
to Fort Bragg. After Basic Training we went
to Fort Jackson South Carolina, and I was
then assigned to service, then Headquarters
Battery of the 45th Field Artillery Battalion of
the 13th Infantry Division; where if my
recollection is correct, you replaced the C.O.
in the Spring or Summer of 1942.

The first night you were in Command, a
few of the boys failed to remain at attention
during Retreat, and you ordered the First Sgt.

to give them extra duty after supper. He was an Old Army man, and did not carry your orders out. The next morning he was marching in with myself and the rest of the private.

You established your position in short order.

On another occasion we were out on the firing range, and I chauffeured you some 50 miles in the truck I was assigned to drive, for the purpose of beating some ice for a cold drink for the men.

I remember you eliminated the Officers mess table in the field. The order of precedence under your Command was, that the Sergeants ate first; then the corporals, sergeants etc. up the line, the Officers following, and you being last to eat - yourself!

On another occasion a Lieutenant arrived at the motor pool without his logging, when we were to have on a problem, and you ordered him to get into his complete uniform, and be back on his truck before the time scheduled for our departure.

You were then shortly thereafter, I believe, assigned to Battalion Headquarters. In any event you were moved, and we could understand the reason for this - Our opinion was that you were too valuable to remain as just a Story C.O. But you did pass me and my buddies on the road several times after that, and you always had a nod of recognition for us. I believe that before we left Jackson you were wearing Major's insignias.

I recall the above incidents to refresh your memory Colonel as to the fact that I served under your direction and command.

In four years and nine months of service, I had contact with many officers. I don't profess to be a psychologist, nor to be able to predict the nebulous characteristics of leadership in an individual; but I do know, that in my experience, both in the Army and with the New York City Police Department, I have never met a superior under whose leadership

I would be more anxious to see and follow.

I thought of you - Colonel - many times since 1942; and even though we were together for only a short time, you impressed me as the personification of all that West Point stands for.

I don't have knowledge of your present predicament. I hope you are successful in refuting the charges leveled against you; but of this I am positive; that what you did, was in the best interest of our Country, and that no personal acclaim or any other selfish purpose, was a motivating factor involved.

I hope this letter of mine brings you some small measure of comfort. I come to you out of the long past, but be assured I am not alone in my sentiment. Others who have served under you and to my personal knowledge feel as I do. They respect, admire and feel assured, that you will come through this battle, perhaps a little tired; but with the dignity and serenity that is You - John C. Peterson.

Respectfully
Bernard J. Lusker



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Office of the Army Attache
American Embassy
Beirut, Lebanon

8 February 1957

Colonel John C. Nickerson
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Nick:

We don't get much news out here at the end of the line so I was horrified to read in the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune of what they're doing to you. It seems incredible to me that we have sunk so low that a dedicated officer of over 22 years devoted service would be placed under arrest, let alone threatened with Court Martial. My Lord, Nick, what's happening to the Army?

I'm sure you will have more important character witnesses than me, but I'd be tickled to death to offer depositions or testimony if it would help. If not, I can only offer my faith in the loyalty and sincerity of your actions and my belief that investigation will vindicate you.

Sincerely

Bob

ROBERT C. WORKS
Colonel, GS
Army Attache

*Box 5 Embassy
APO-616*

*Answered
Jen*

4 March 1957

Lt. Col. Charles R. Zimmer
Post Judge Advocate
Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Dear Colonel Zimmer,

Reference is made to your letter of 25 February 1957 concerning Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr.

I have known and been closely associated with Colonel Nickerson since 1951, in the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, the General Staff and the Office, Chief of Ordnance. During the time that I have known him I have considered both his character and manner of performance of duty to be superior.

In my dealings with him I have found him to be an intelligent, extremely hard working officer with exceptional initiative. He has been not only willing but anxious to assume responsibility. In my opinion his truthfulness, integrity and reliability are above question. His loyalty and courage are such that he willingly places the welfare of the organization he serves above any personal considerations.

I would be not only willing but proud to have Colonel Nickerson serve with me at any time.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES G. BAIN
Colonel, OrdG
Ordnance Liaison Officer

27 Feb.1957.

To; Whom It May Concern.

Subject: Col. John C. Nickerson, Jr.

I commanded the 8th Inf. Div. Artillery from about June 5, 1942 to about Aug. 16, 1945. During a part of this period, from July 4, 1944 to VE Day, we were actively engaged in the combat zone in the European Theater of Operation.

During the period of my command, Col. John C. Nickerson, Jr., then Lieut. Col., commanded the 56th F.A. Bn. His manner of performing his duties was Superior.

I found him to be a gentleman of sterling character. At no time did I have occasion to question his truthfulness, integrity, and reliability as an officer. I had great confidence in him.

During the training and combat periods I was closely associated with the artillery commanders of my command. I considered Col. Nickerson as an intelligent and highly valuable officer. I used him accordingly and never had occasion to regret my choice.

James A. Pickering
Brig. Gen. USA Retd.
(Formerly CG 8th Inf. Div. Arty).

ARMY WAR COLLEGE
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA

10 April 1957

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

During the period September 1951 to April 1954, I was assigned to Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 with duties concerning themselves with the Army's atomic energy activities. For about two of these years, Colonel J. C. Nickerson was assigned in the Research and Development Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 or in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. In both offices he worked on atomic energy matters and HONEST JOHN in particular.

Colonel Nickerson was very active in pushing the development of HONEST JOHN within the Army. At the same time, in conjunction with officers in G-3, he assisted materially in getting the Joint Chiefs of Staff to establish atomic warhead development requirements for Army weapons and production requirements for the warheads as their development proceeded.

During the period that I worked with Colonel Nickerson, he had access to all atomic and guided missile information except atomic stockpile numbers for which he had no need-to-know. He showed himself to be completely trustworthy, security conscious, and loyal at all times.

Charles B. Hines

CHARLES B. HINES
Colonel, Artillery

Sylacauga Fertilizer Company

INCORPORATED 1904

MANUFACTURERS OF

Parker's High Grade Fertilizer

COTTON
BUYERS

OPERATING
SYLACAUGA BONDED WAREHOUSE
U. S. BONDED

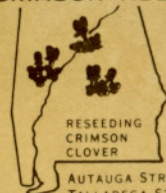
SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA

March 8, 1957

Seed Cleaning Department

OATS
FESCUE
CLOVERS
COTTON SEED
DALLIS GRASS
HEGARI
RYE GRASS
SOY BEANS

ALABAMA
"CRIMSON TIDE"



AUTAUGA STRAIN
TALLADEGA STRAIN
DIXIE STRAIN
AUBURN STRAIN

Colonel John C. Nickerson
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

My dear Colonel Nickerson:

A lot of water has passed over the dam since you and I served with Division Artillery of the 8th Infantry Division. You were commanding the 56th Field Artillery Battalion and I was a First Lieutenant in Battery C 45th Field Artillery under Colonel Green.

I do not know if you will remember me as a junior officer in your sister battalion, but I recall a number of things about you which have always stuck in my mind. I remember Tent City in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. I recall our division artillery firing for school troops at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. I recall the snow and ice at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; desert maneuvers in Arizona; the GHQ tests at Camp Forrest, Tennessee; and I also remember Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, North Ireland, Brittany Peninsula, Breast, Luxembourg, and Germany. I remember that at age 28 you were a Lt. Colonel and the youngest battalion commander in division artillery.

As a reserve Second Lieutenant just out of Auburn, I held a West Point officer in highest esteem. There were a lot of things I admired in particular about your command. I admired the manner in which you disciplined both officers and men under your command. I admired and respected your knowledge of army tactics as well as the vast source of know how you brought to the Division as a young West Point officer. Above all I admired your



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Page 2

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ALABAMA
"CRIMSON TIDE"



RESEEDING
CRIMSON
CLOVER

AUTAUGA STRAIN
TALLADEGA STRAIN
DIXIE STRAIN
AUBURN STRAIN

character and the high moral standards which you set before your men.

Some few months ago I learned you were at Redstone and had hoped to stop by and see you sometimes. Every good American should be most concerned about the controversy which has been raised from the Secretary of Defense Wilson's Washington office over guided missiles. I know you must have spent countless hours in worry and anxiety over the manner in which certain segments of our Armed Forces have maneuvered themselves into the guided missiles field. I am sure that you must welcome a court martial to bring out many facts hitherto undisclosed on guided missiles.

I understand that one of the charges brought against you deals with violation of security regulations and I do not pretend to know enough to judge whether security has or has not been violated under your command.

I am very concerned that some of the charges and/or specifications indicate espionage. I do know this charge is entirely without foundation. Having had the privilege of serving with you for some four or five years, much of that time having been spent in actual combat zone, I can personally vouch that I know of no more consecrated officer to the service of his country than you displayed while serving with the 8th Infantry Division.

I am guessing that Buster Bell will have more capable witnesses than I to vouch for this fact, but I assure you that I stand ready and willing and would welcome the



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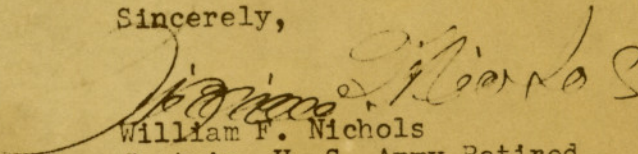
RESEEDING
CRIMSON
CLOVER
AUTAUGA STRAIN
TALLADEGA STRAIN
DIXIE STRAIN
AUBURN STRAIN

privilege to appear in your behalf before any court martial and tell them something about your character, ability, loyalty, and service to the United States in World War II.

Brigadier General Pickering, I believe, is still living in Atlanta and he would make for you an excellent witness in regard to this charge. I was retired shortly after the war and visited him on several different occasions when I was in the army hospital in Atlanta. I have been retired since 1947, having lost one leg and a partial paralysis of the other leg from a mine explosion in the Hurtgen Forrest, November 30, 1944. I am sending a copy of this letter to your most able attorney, the Honorable Buster Bell, to let him know that I stand ready to help in any way I can.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes to you and your family, I am

Sincerely,


William F. Nichols
Captain, U. S. Army Retired
0-379281

cc: Honorable Buster Bell
Attorney at Law
Huntsville, Alabama

