

2400 North Nelson Street
Arlington, Virginia
7 March 1957

Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Zimmer
Office of the Post Judge Advocate
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Dear Colonel Zimmer:

I am very glad to give the requested information on Colonel John G. Nickerson, 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 fuzes and other than the "bazooka". Colonel Nickerson was deputy chief of the branch for the last eight or ten months of that time.

Colonel Nickerson 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 Nickerson 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 Nickerson 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 Nickerson 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,

E. H. Harrison

E. H. Harrison
Colonel, USA (Retired)