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

August 20, 1968



THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BUMM, SAFSP  
SUBJECT: Requests for Occupational Deferments

This responds to your memorandum of March 20, 1968 (BYE 16639-68) in which you asked me to review a scheme you had proposed to handle deferment actions at Eastman-Kodak.

You will recall our earlier discussions -- just after I had received your memo -- in which I expressed our reservations about providing a general letter written at high-level in OSD to cover EK's position; then permitting EK to submit statements referencing the cover letter on behalf of each individual applicant. Our concern, of course, was that the condition "only when we (EK) believe it is justified" would not be objectively and prudently applied.

Our feeling was, and is, that we should insist on a more objective appraisal of the "criticality" of the services of such individuals by EK and SAFSP.

To this end, we agreed to devise the criteria which would serve as the basis for determining an individual's criticality and which could be used by you to establish with EK a mechanism for the review and processing of the individual requests.

We have established three criteria which we feel will insure that we are asked to sponsor only those individuals who are clearly essential to program accomplishment. I have attached a listing of the criteria along with two "procedural caveats" for your review and possible use in establishing an appropriate mechanism.

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General Berg would continue to personally review and sign the requests to the local selective service boards. He would need, in each case, your assurance that the criteria had been applied to and satisfied by the individual applicant.

Trust this helps resolve the issue.

*William R. Yost*  
WILLIAM R. YOST  
Lt Colonel, USAF

Attachment

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Criteria:

1. The individual must have completed at least two years special training (at an accredited University or Institute) which has uniquely qualified him for his assigned duties.
2. The individual must have principally participated in and/or have been responsible for the development of special techniques or manipulations (such as: grinding large mirrors or aspherics) which are essential to the success of on-going systems.
3. The individual must occupy a unique position, in the construction, development or operation of an on-going system, for which no qualified replacement is currently available, but for which a designated individual has been assigned and is being trained.

Procedural Caveats:

In all cases, the inference of a selective service deferment is for a maximum period of one year, during which period EKC must undertake and complete replacement training.

Although an individual may be occupying a position currently considered unique for a system in critical development stage -- once the critical phase of development has passed (e. g., commencement of on-the-shelf production) neither the position nor the individual in that position is to be considered critical.

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