

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Wednesday
April 10, 1968
3:30 PMMEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Technological Innovation in Viet Nam

The effort to get technological innovation into our Viet Nam operations is continuing. Progress is much too slow, but the attached letter from the Marine Corps notes progress when we try.

The "Snoopy" helicopter is a small, unmanned drone helicopter carrying a TV camera which transmits pictures back to the base. It proved surprisingly invulnerable in tests which the Navy conducted in the coastal areas of the DMZ: it could obviously be enormously effective as an aid to ground operations in the location of personnel and targets. After considerable prodding from the Ground Warfare Panel of your Science Advisory Committee and my staff, the Marines are now moving rapidly and planning to test Snoopy in connection with their operations at Khe Sanh.

Donald F. Hornig
Donald F. Hornig

Encl.
S&T No. 529 dtd 4 April 68

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)
By ing, NARS, Date 6-13-80Unclassified when separated
from enclosures~~SECRET~~



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE ADDRESSEE

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4 APR 1968

Dr. Vincent McRae
Office of Science and Technology
Executive Office of the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20500

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

By inf, NARS, Date 6-13-80

Dear Dr. McRae:

On 29 February, during a meeting of the Ground Warfare Panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee, you requested that the Marine Corps and Navy representatives take the necessary action to determine if the Navy's QH-50 drone, in a target acquisition configuration (Snoopy), could be employed to advantage in support of the Marines in the DMZ area of Vietnam in general and at Khe Sanh in particular.

The first meeting between Navy and Marine Corps representatives to follow up on your request was conducted on 1 March. Action was initiated to determine the recommendations and comments of the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, concerning the proposed deployment of Snoopy. Initial action was also taken to arrange for training of required Marine ground control personnel for the program.

On 6 March the Secretary of Defense directed provision of battlefield TV reconnaissance at Khe Sanh within 30 days. Funding responsibility and program management for the test and evaluation phase was assigned to ARPA.

Since that time, the necessary Marine personnel have been trained, three QH-50 drones have been properly configured and two mobile ground control equipments have been prepared. The personnel and equipment are expected to arrive in Vietnam about 16 April.

Present plans are to conduct a two week test and evaluation. Testing will be initiated in the coastal plains area for about two days and then moved to Khe Sanh. If movement to Khe Sanh proves infeasible another location will be selected.

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GROUP 4: Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
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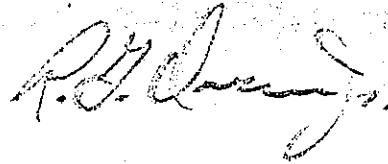
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Planning for continued employment is now in progress in order to ensure continued exploitation of the QH-50 drone capabilities should it demonstrate effectiveness and survivability during the test.

Your interest and assistance in this program is sincerely appreciated. As you know, the Marine Corps and Navy have been exploring this application of "Snoopy" for some time. However, the interest and assistance provided by the Office of Science and Technology has made possible the early test of this program in Vietnam.

Sincerely,



R. G. OWENS, JR.
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3

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