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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



30 SEP 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Grill Flame (U)

(S) Grill Flame is a joint contractual effort on the part of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Department of the Army. Recently a question has arisen as to whether the approval of the Secretary of Defense for certain activities of this program is required pursuant to Procedure 18, DoD Regulation 5240.1-R. By memorandum dated 17 July 1981 to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, USA, you indicated that the use of military personnel in this program was viewed as constituting both research and human experimentation. I would appreciate a fully written brief which sets forth a detailed factual description of the nature of military personnel participation in the Grill Flame program as well as the legal reasoning upon which you base your judgment that participants of that program are subject to human experimentation. In particular, I am interested in any distinctions which you draw between the Grill Flame program and other testing or research programs conducted by the military departments which put military members at risk, for example aircraft test pilot programs.

(U) I feel it is quite important that this Department reach a consensus on a matter of this sensitivity. I am sure your response will enable us to achieve a satisfactory resolution of this issue in regard to the Grill Flame program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WHT", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William H. Taft, IV

DIA Memo S-254/GC  
of 2/9/81

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