

*Security*

19 JUN 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

SUBJECT : Availability of Naval Construction Battalion (Seabee)  
Personnel for Renovation and Construction Duties

[REDACTED]

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REFERENCE : Memo dtd 14 Jun 68 to D/L fr D/S, same subject

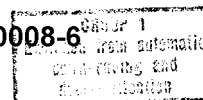
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1. Referenced memorandum advised this Office concerning the availability of military construction personnel to assist in modifications to the [REDACTED] facility and requested comments.

2. In order to expedite this project we did not follow normal practices. This facility is carried by the General Services Administration (GSA) as Agency-assigned property, and modifications thereto would have normally been referred to GSA for accomplishment. To avoid the normal delays built into that system, we contracted directly with an Architectural-Engineering firm for plans and specifications and will award a direct construction contract prior to 30 June. With 90 days construction time, if all goes well, the facility should be ready for occupancy in early October. The current scope of work includes construction of the sensitive practice areas as part of the contract.

3. While we also would like to reduce the cost of this project, we feel that the disadvantages in using this military labor must be pointed out to you. First, we do not know specifically when, how much, or the type of labor that could become available each week--carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. These personnel would be continually changing and would require Agency engineering supervision. If this were an in-house effort (not using a private contractor), the Office of Logistics could only do it at the expense of other programs. Also since materials must be purchased this year to commit funds using this method, some 1969 funding would undoubtedly be required since time is too short to place the required orders prior to 1 July 1968. Secondly, if a private contract were awarded for performance of the work with a credit arrangement for Government-furnished labor, the contractor would be automatically released from performance as an independent contractor

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and become an agent not held to a specific performance under the plans and specifications. Also, Navy policy has always been not to use military personnel on construction projects in the United States in competition with civilian labor. Actions such as this, in the past, have resulted in strikes and congressional inquiries. Any charges of this nature would be directed to GSA and could affect a number of other construction projects which GSA has permitted us to accomplish on an informal basis. We also know that the Department of Defense policy is against such use through recent discussions concerning possible use of similar personnel at [REDACTED]

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4. Based on the above, we cannot see any benefits from the use of these personnel on this construction project. However, we could with some redesign exclude the sensitive work areas from the construction contract. Should this be done, award of the construction contract now scheduled for 28 June could not be made until next fiscal year. Your personnel could supervise the military personnel in performance of this work after the private contractor has completed his work and left the construction site. Whether this would save money and time would depend on availability of these various military construction skills and the supervision you are prepared to provide to the Seabees.

5. Unless we hear from you otherwise, we will not plan on using this military labor.

Signed: George E. Meloon

George E. Meloon  
Director of Logistics

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OL/RECD [REDACTED] 11h/3017 (18 Jun 68)

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