

*Military Exercise  
High Heels 69*

September 12, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Philip E. Barringer  
Director, Foreign Military Rights Affairs  
Office, Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA)  
Room 4C-749, Pentagon Building  
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Military Exercise High Heels 69

Military exercise High Heels 69 is approved.

Alexander M. Haig  
Colonel, U. S. Army  
Military Assistant

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

NW 02-11/2917 per ltr. 11/9/2004  
By JMR NARA, Date 4/20/2012  
[p. 1 of 14]

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

September 11, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL HAIG

FROM: Colonel Behr *amb*

SUBJECT: High Heels 69

I have reviewed the attached brief of High Heels 69, the basic JCS planning documents, and the OEP supplement. The planning is comprehensive and a useful exercise can be anticipated. I believe, moreover, that emphasis on Phase III (Subsequent Operations) is proper. It is in this area that our understanding of requirements and capabilities is most deficient.

LCdr. Howe has informed me of your desire that I monitor the exercise for the staff. I am prepared to do this, and have had preliminary discussions with Al Patti of OEP pertaining to my participation. We both agree that it should be in "observer" status, and furthermore, that it would be non-productive to spend a great amount of time at the OEP Special Facilities Division. Unless otherwise directed I intend to be a regular attendee at the daily sessions General Lincoln will chair in the Winder Building.

Tomorrow I am attending a meeting of agency planners at the Pentagon, at which time the "canned" PEADs will be discussed. As you are aware, these are simulated Executive actions that will be introduced into the exercise play to provide policy inputs which range beyond pure military matters. I have reviewed these submissions and consider them adequate for exercise purposes.

From our standpoint I think that the primary focus should be a determination of the advisability of elevating NSC participation in future High Heels exercises. Specifically, we should weigh the merits of active WSAG participation, at least on a part-time basis.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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September 9, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BEHR

FROM: Al Haig 

SUBJECT: Military Exercise High Heels 69

May I please have your comments and/or  
concurrence on the attached military  
exercise by close of business 11 September 1969.

Attachment

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NLN 02-11/12917

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

4 SEP 1969

In reply refer to:  
I-23631/69

Colonel Alexander M. Haig, USA  
National Security Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Al:

Three copies of a brief on military exercise High Heels 69 are enclosed in accordance with NSAM 316. This exercise has been coordinated with the State Department and the U.S. Information Agency. They have raised no objection but noted that disclosure of the scenario, which involves the exercise of SIOP in response to an enemy pre-emptive strike, could be troublesome if disclosed. However, they believe that the high degree of security that governs these exercises and their value makes the risk an acceptable one.

A summary of the politico-military scenario for this exercise appears at paragraph eight of the brief.

The general public information policy planned for this exercise is in paragraph 14 of the exercise brief. The proposed press release in paragraph 14 is amended to read:

"An annual, routine global communications exercise known as HIGH HEELS 69 will be conducted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff beginning October 15 through October 23. The exercise is designed to test world-wide communications systems and will not involve the movement of forces."

Please note that the critical date for Presidential cancellation is 15 September 1969.

Cordially,

  
Philip E. Barringer  
Director, Foreign Military  
Rights Affairs

Enclosure:  
Military Exercise High Heels 69  
Brief (3 cys)

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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COPY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

BRIEF OF A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE

1. (U) Name of Exercise. HIGH HEELS 69.
2. (U) Type. Command Post Exercise (CPX).
3. (C) Aims. To exercise participants in the reporting and implementation procedures required for the execution of General War Plans.
4. (C) Dates. 15-23 October 1969.
5. (U) Critical or Limiting Date for Presidential Decision to Cancel Exercise. 15 September 1969.
6. (S) Political Implications
  - a. US commitments to allies for conduct of the exercise: None.
  - b. Other political implications: HIGH HEELS 69 is designed to exercise US General War Plans on a worldwide basis in the course of simulated exercise play. The exercise scenario has created fictitious political and military situations in many areas of the world, excluding North and South Vietnam. Therefore, political implications could be drawn by other nations if the detailed scenarios for HIGH HEELS 69 were inadvertently revealed.
7. (C) Geographical Area. Worldwide (less selected PACOM areas).
8. (S) Brief Outline. The exercise will be conducted in three phases during the period 15-23 October 1969. Phase I, the Pre-general War Phase, will commence 15 October 1969, with active 24-hour a day participation. This phase lasts three days portraying events and addressing decisions leading to execution of US General War Plans. The exercise scenario during this phase builds a politico-military situation which ultimately brings US and Soviet

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[p. 5 of 14]

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interests into direct conflict. Phase I concludes with the addressal of those decisions leading to execution of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP). The exercise continues into Phase II, which covers two days of play, involving the monitoring of nuclear strike force execution and Coordinated Reconnaissance Plan results. Phase III, the Subsequent Operations Phase, will last four days and address the tasks of reconstitution of national resources and redirection of civil/military efforts in the aftermath of a global nuclear exchange.

9. (U) Directing Headquarters. The Joint Chiefs of Staff.
10. (C) Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces.
  - a. US
    - (1) OJCS.
    - (2) Headquarters of each unified and specified command.
    - (3) Headquarters of the Military Services.
    - (4) Department of State.
    - (5) Office of the Secretary of Defense.
    - (6) Central Intelligence Agency.
    - (7) Office of Emergency Preparedness.
    - (8) Defense Atomic Support Agency.
    - (9) Defense Communications Agency.
    - (10) Defense Intelligence Agency.
    - (11) Defense Supply Agency.
    - (12) National Security Agency.
    - (13) Office of the Manager, National Communications System.
    - (14) Federal Aviation Administration.
    - (15) Office of Civil Defense/Secretary of the Army.
    - (16) Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff.
    - (17) Joint Coordination Centers, Europe and Far East.

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b. Allied. Canada will participate in the NORAD sponsored CPX, FAIRPLAY 69, a companion exercise being conducted concurrently with Exercise HIGH HEELS 69.

11. (S) Scope of Participation Anticipated From:

a. Unified and Specified Commands. Full participation by headquarters echelons, at the discretion of the commanders concerned.

b. Unassigned Forces of the US Military Services. Provision of necessary communications and simulated logistic support on a worldwide basis in accordance with established procedures.

c. Other Federal Agencies or Departments. Organizations in paragraph 10a will participate to varying extent in support of the exercise and in testing individual emergency plans and procedures.

d. Allied Nations. Canadian NORAD Forces will participate as directed by CINCNORAD.

12. (S) Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons. Simulated Presidential release authority, the selective release and use of tactical nuclear weapons, and execution of the SIOP will be exercised.

13. (C) Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified, or Service Commands, Government Departments or Agencies or Representatives Thereof. Coordination was completed with representatives of participants listed in paragraph 10a.

14. (S) Recommended General Policy to be Followed as to Public Information, Security Restrictions, and/or Other Unusual Events - Both Within and Outside the United States. In view of the possible political implications, as noted in paragraph 6, and the sensitivity of US General War Plans, minimum publicity will be given to Exercise HIGH HEELS 69. A passive public information policy should be followed. If inquiries are received, emphasis should be placed on the routine, periodic nature of local or unified/specified command exercises. The following press release is recommended on or about

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15 October 1969, in order to place the exercise in proper perspective, and avoid press speculation and misinterpretation by any country which might note an increase in US military communications activity:

"Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird announced today that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are now conducting a routine, recurring global communications exercise known as HIGH HEELS 69. Military commanders and staffs are exercising worldwide communications systems and reporting procedures. The primary purpose of HIGH HEELS 69 is to insure complete responsiveness of all such systems and procedures. The exercise does not involve the movement of forces."

15. (U) Additional Remarks. None.

Prepared by:

Cdr L. Addicott, Jr., USN  
General Operations Division, J-3, OJCS  
Extension 53484

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September 9, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BEHR

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