

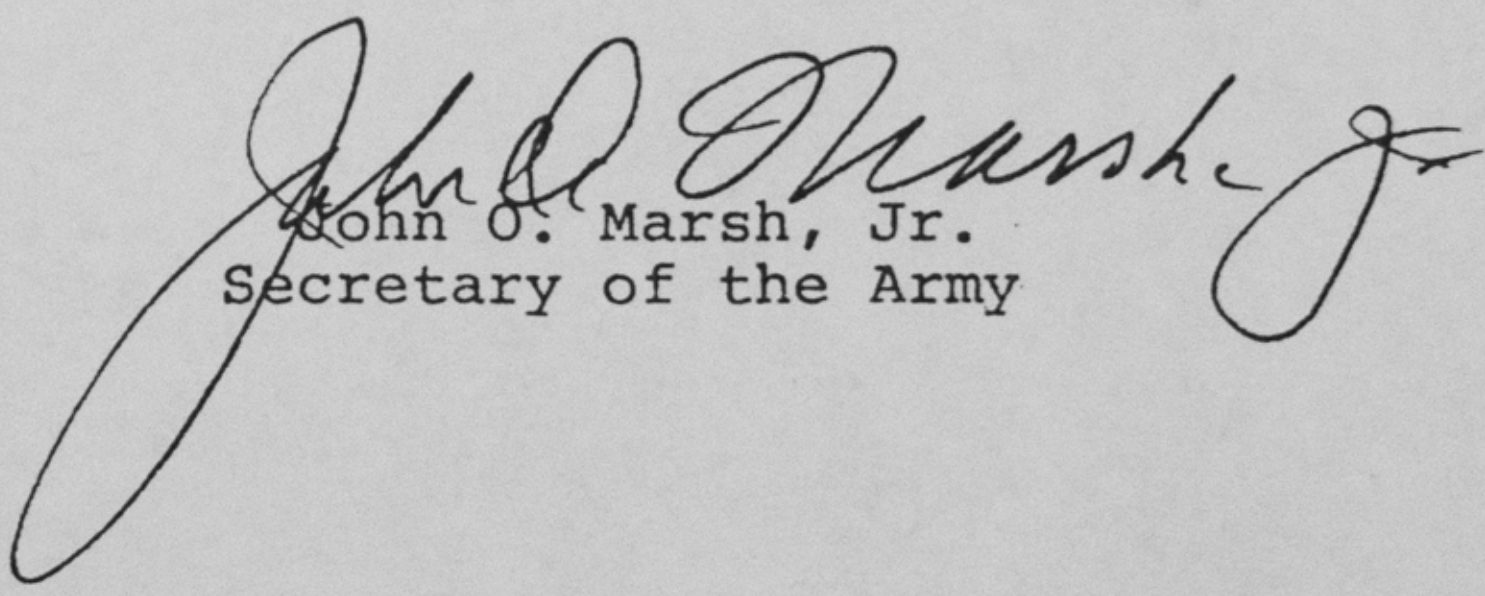
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

ORDER 67-1

13 June 1985

SUBJECT: Posthumous Promotion

The President of the United States has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of ARTHUR D. NICHOLSON, JR., 228-62-6589. In view of these qualities he is, therefore, promoted posthumously in the United States Army from MAJOR to LIEUTENANT COLONEL. By direction of the President, promotion is effective 13 June 1985. The authority for this promotion is Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.


John O. Marsh, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

6/27/88

Apology from The Soviets

IT TOOK THREE years, a few summits and glasnost, but the Soviets have finally apologized for killing an American Army officer in East Germany in 1985.

The apology won't bring back Arthur D. Nicholson, but a simple "I'm sorry" from their defense minister helps the healing begin on this side of detente.

Nicholson was killed March 24, 1985, in Ludwigslust, East Germany, while he was inspecting a Soviet tank shed. He was part of a 14-man military liaison team stationed in East Germany under an agreement with the Soviets that dates back to 1947. Americans are allowed to monitor certain Soviet military facilities in East Germany, and Soviets can do the same at U.S. facilities in West Germany.

A TRIGGER-HAPPY Soviet sentry either didn't know the rules or panicked. He shot Nicholson while the major was taking pictures of the shed.

We pressed the Army for a year to give us the investigative report of the incident. Then, after they released it, we reported the details of that investigation in a series of columns in January and May. For three years, the Soviets claimed Nicholson was in restricted territory.



They blamed the officer for his own death or blamed the American commanders or simply refused to say anything at all about the incident.

The Pentagon continued to press for an apology, and on May 31 at the Moscow Summit, that apology came from Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov. In a statement to Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, Yazov said, "I express my regret over the incident and I'm sorry that this occurred. This does not promote improved relations. Secretary Carlucci and I have agreed we will do all we can to prevent these kinds of incidents in the future."

The apology must give U.S. officials a sense of satisfaction, but it doesn't answer the lingering questions raised by the Army's own investigation:

■ Why did the sentry shoot Nicholson? Army intelligence analysts have theorized that the sentry may have feared for his job. Nicholson and his driver, Sgt. Jesse Schatz, were near the tank shed for 25 minutes before the sentry saw them.

■ When did Nicholson die? The Soviets did not turn over his body to the Army for more than 24 hours after the shooting. In fact, Soviet military men on the scene let Nicholson's body lie on the ground for eight hours while they interrogated Schatz.

■ Was Nicholson in the wrong place? The U.S. Army claims the tank shed was not on the map of restricted zones where the American liaison team was not allowed to observe.

Today's column was written by Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta.

SF Chronicle, 1/13/88

No Apologies From Soviets

MAJOR ARTHUR D. Nicholson has been dead for three years. For three years his family and friends have waited for an apology from the Soviet Union, waited for sanctions against the trigger-happy Soviet sentry who gunned him down, waited for a sheepish confession that the shooting was a tragic mistake.

They will have to wait a long time. The smiling Mikhail Gorbachev, a product of born-again Soviet marketing skills, has been personally unapologetic about the unprovoked killing of Nicholson in East Germany. Now, we have new evidence that Gorbachev's men were so unfazed by the heinous tragedy that they engaged in bully-boy actions against the United States and Great Britain after the shooting.

NICHOLSON WAS part of a 14-member liaison team stationed in East Germany to observe the Soviets. The Soviets have a team in West Germany doing the same thing. The arrangement is sanctioned by a 1947 agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both sides are supposed to stay out of restricted areas.

The Soviets claim Nicholson and his



driver, Sgt. Jessie Schatz, were in a restricted area on March 24, 1985, when the Soviet sentry fired a warning shot and then gunned down Nicholson. Schatz said there was no warning, and the United States claims that the area was not restricted.

Here are some of the untold details:

■ After Nicholson was shot, at 3:45 p.m., Schatz was held by the Soviets in his car until midnight. He was berated by Soviet military officials, who accused him of shooting Nicholson. Two Pentagon sources familiar with the details say that Schatz was physically assaulted by the Soviets.

■ Our Pentagon sources say that an American colonel who arrived on the scene within hours of the incident was not allowed to help Nicholson. American officials do not know how long it took Nicholson to die.

■ The Soviets wouldn't hand over Nicholson's body until the following day. U.S. Army intelligence officials believe the Soviets took Nicholson to East Berlin for an examination by doctors. It was not until 5:30 p.m. on March 25, more than 24 hours after the shooting, that an American doctor was allowed to examine Nicholson's body.

■ In a touching move of solidarity, British liaison team members drove to the site of the shooting in Ludwigslust, East Germany, the day after Nicholson was shot and "squatted" in a silent protest. One Pentagon source said the British "sat there for three days on the spot with the Soviets fuming."

Today's column was written by Jack Anderson and Dale Atta.

Slain Officer Buried

White Horses and Gray Skies at Arlington

By Anndee Hochman

Washington Post Staff Writer

Family, friends, colleagues and top Army officials gathered yesterday in a military chapel at Fort Myer to honor Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson Jr. and eulogize him as a man who had volunteered for a stressful assignment because he wanted to be on "the cutting edge."

Nicholson, 37, a liaison officer to East Germany, was shot and killed by a Soviet sentry near a garage-like storage shed one week ago. Nicholson, whose hometown was West Redding, Conn., had been attached to the 14-member liaison mission in Potsdam since 1982.

As several hundred people honored Nicholson at a service in Fort Myer's Memorial Chapel and a military burial in Arlington National Cemetery, Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Dobrynin met at the State Department and agreed on discussions to prevent similar incidents.

In the chapel, family, friends and colleagues sat silently as the muffled beats of a drum corps outside signaled the arrival of the major's flag-draped casket.

Col. Roland LaJoie, commander of the liaison mission, recalled Nich-

olson as a man who "not only passed the tests, he set the standards."

Nicholson was "my officer, my professional colleague and, most importantly, my personal friend," LaJoie said. "I was the last of us to see Nick alive and the first to see him dead."

LaJoie praised Nicholson's heroism and decried the circumstances of his death. "It was not a battle, it was not a fair fight; he was unarmed, in uniform, in broad daylight"

And he stressed that Nicholson believed in the value of his work. "He constantly sought ways to increase contacts with Soviet officers so we could get to know each other better. Nick immensely enjoyed what he was doing, and I can tell you unequivocally, he was very good at it."

"He wanted to be out there, and he needed to be out there, close to what he considered the cutting edge," LaJoie said.

Following the chapel service, the funeral procession wound slowly through the cemetery. The horse-drawn caisson bearing Nicholson's casket came to rest near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

More than 200 people ringed the grave site under ashen skies, listening to the music that resounded for minutes before members of the

U.S. Army Band marched into view. Six white horses pulling the caisson halted near the grave site, and Nicholson's family stood behind—his parents, his wife Karyn and his 9-year-old daughter Jennifer, who clutched a sprig of flowers in one hand and a doll in the other.

Riflemen fired three volleys into the chilly air, and a single bugler played Taps.

After a brief, quiet service, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Howard Taft IV presented flags to

Nicholson's wife and father; Army Secretary John O. Marsh Jr. gave the Legion of Merit award, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham presented The Purple Heart.

Nicholson's family rose and, one by one, placed roses on his casket. His daughter, then his wife, bent to kiss the lid. The funeral party dispersed quickly, and a few people drifted down the hillside from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to stare at the casket, the mounds of flowers and the empty chairs.



**NICHOLSON HALL
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
MAJOR ARTHUR DONALD NICHOLSON, JR (NICK)
1947-1985**

MAJOR NICHOLSON was born 7 June 1947 in Mt. Vernon, WA. He entered the Army in May 1969 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in military intelligence in 1970. He received a B.A. in philosophy from Transylvania University and a M.A. in National Security Affairs from the Naval Post-Graduate School. He graduated from DLI as a Russian linguist in 1980. While assigned as a Ground Liaison/Production Officer, U.S. Military Liaison Mission, Postdam East Germany, **MAJOR NICHOLSON** was gunned down by a Soviet Sentry on 24 March 1985 near the town of Ludswigslust, East Germany. This building stands as a monument to a soldier who sacrificed his life while helping to maintain freedom for the United States and its allies. Major Nicholson was posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

**26 MARCH 1987
PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

Official Party Arrives

Mrs. Karen Nicholson, Jr.
Cmdr. & Mrs. Nicholson, Sr. (Ret.)
Brigadier General Lajoie
Colonel Monte Bullard

(Audience rises)

ATTENTION IS SOUNDED

OFFICIAL PARTY MOVES TO THEIR POSITIONS

NATIONAL ANTHEM IS PLAYED

INVOCATION

(Audience is seated)

INTRODUCTION OF BG LAJOIE

REMARKS BY BG LAJOIE

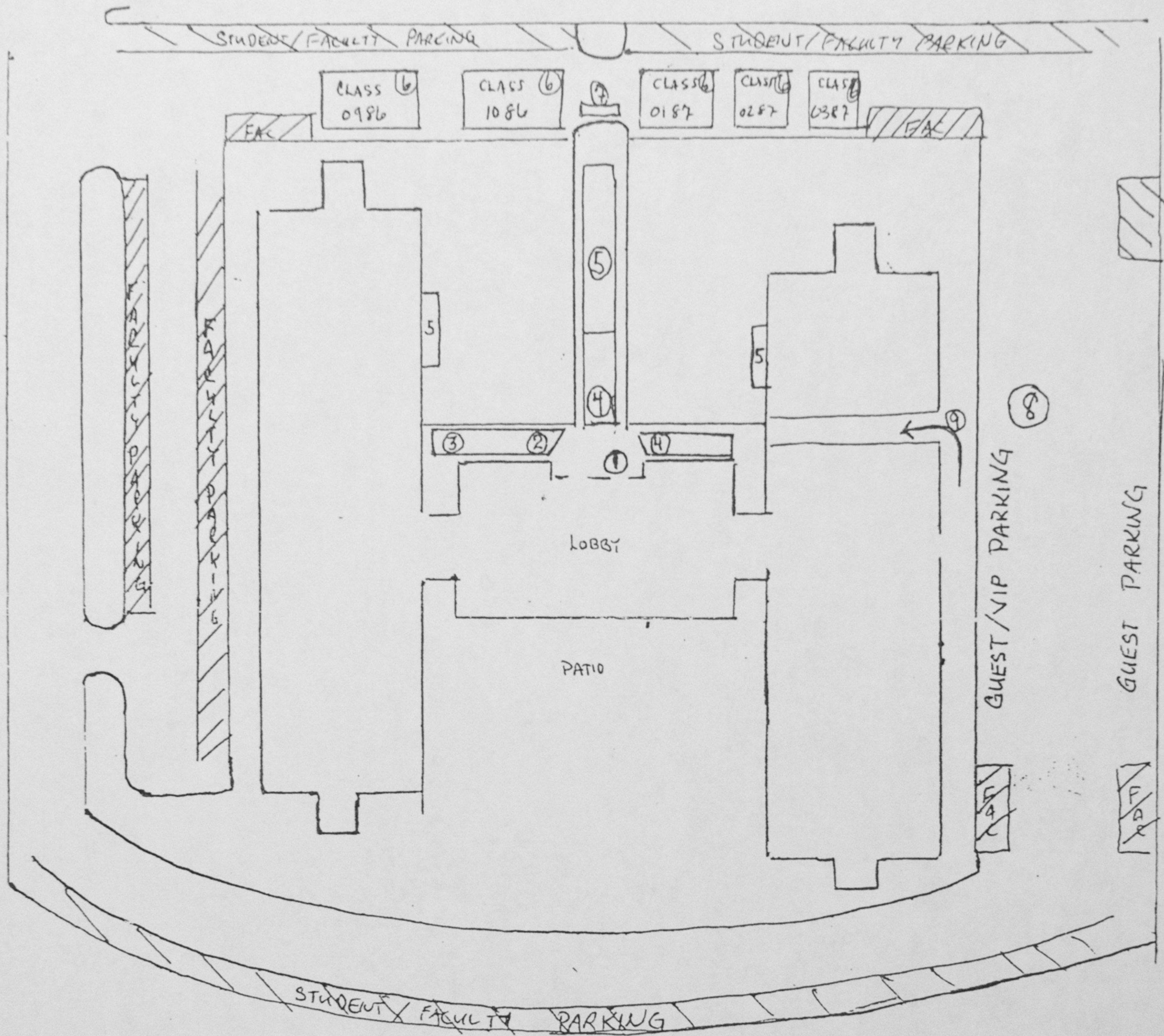
PUBLICATION OF MEMORIAL PROCLAMATION

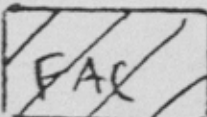
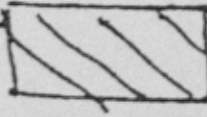
RIBBON CUTTING BY MRS NICHOLSON, JR.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONCLUSION OF CEREMONY

NICHOLSON HALL DEDICATION CEREMONY 26 MARCH '87

PARKING / SEATING



 = FACULTY PARKING
 = STUDENT/FACULTY PARKING

- ① PODIUM
- ② NICHOLSON FAMILY/OFFICIAL PARTY
- ③ BAND

- ④ VIP SEATING (GUESTS)
- ⑤ DRS FACULTY SEATING
- ⑥ DRS STUDENT FORMATION
- ⑦ HONOR GUARD
- ⑧ GUEST/VIP PARKING
- ⑨ GUEST ACCESS TO SEATING AREA

DISPOSITION FORM

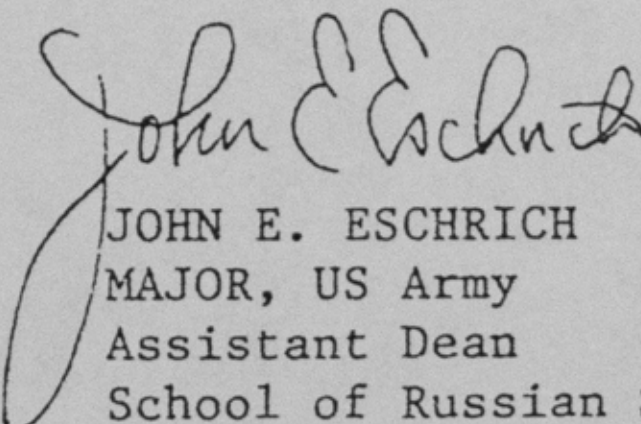
For use of this form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is TAGO.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL	SUBJECT
ATFL-DRS-AD	NICHOLSON HALL Dedication, 26 March 1987

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION FROM ATFL-DRS-AD DATE 23 Mar 87 CMT1
1rb/5049

1. The home of the School of Russian Studies (DRS), DLI Building 848, will be officially dedicated NICHOLSON HALL at 1330 hrs. on 26 March 1987.
2. Participants will include all DRS students and faculty, members of the Nicholson family, guest speaker BG Roland Lajoie, and DLI-invited guests.
3. The ceremony will be held outside the building's main entrance (see attached diagram). Students will be in formation by class; faculty and guests will be seated. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in the auditorium (room 170) with guests and representatives from each department and class.
4. Classes will be held 1st - 3rd periods; students will be released at 1100 hrs., police call, set up and assemble NLT 1310. Faculty members are to be seated NLT 1320. In the event of inclement weather, each class will provide 20 students and each department will provide 10 faculty members to attend the ceremony in the auditorium; others will be dismissed.
5. Military uniform is CLASS A/COMBO 1 or service equivalent. Males: Army-Garrison cap, Air Force-Flight cap; Females: Garrison cap or beret, skirts, pumps or low quarters.
6. Parking: (see diagram) There will be no parking in the student formation area (in front of main lobby). The parking area adjacent to the new athletic field will be reserved for guests. DRS faculty and students may park in the remaining spaces with overflow parking in the new barracks area or the hilltop near the new PX. Parking is extremely limited.
7. The dedication ceremony will begin at 1330 hrs. and includes an invocation, introductions, remarks, reading the declaration proclamation, and a ribbon cutting. A reception will follow. MAJ Nicholson's widow (Karen), his daughter (Jenny), his parents and his sister will attend the ceremony. The guest speaker will be BG Roland Lajoie, U.S. Defense Attache in Paris, France.

- 2 Encl
1. Parking/Seating Map
2. History


JOHN E. ESCHRICH
MAJOR, US Army
Assistant Dean
School of Russian Studies

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