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18 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: TAGBOARD Background Notes

1. System Capability:

Drone: Range 3000 NM; speed 3.27 mach; Alt, 80,000 - 96,000, small RCS (.2 sq meter frontal area at 15° depression angle)

Camera: 24 inch focal length, F5.6 lens, coverage 3000 NM X 28NM swath stereo, resolution cft. Nadir

2. Drone Status:

- a. 34 drones ordered (D21B's, B-52 launch config.)
 - 13 drone flights through 20 Feb 70
 - 1 drone inadvertently dropped from B-52
 - 20 drones remaining

b. Of the 20 remaining, 5 are at Beale AFB (Operating Location), 15 are at Lockheed, either in temporary storage or completing final functional checkout.

3. Camera Status:

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- a. 11 HR-335 B Series ordered from Hycon
 - 2 lost on drone flights
 - 9 cameras remaining

b. Of the 9 remaining, 6 have been delivered, 3 are in the final stages of production. Based on projected recovery and loss rates, the 9 cameras should be sufficient for the 20 drones remaining.

4. Test Flight Summary:

a. 6 Nov 67 - 28 Aug 68. Seven test flights. One fully successful mission, 2824 miles, hatch air recovered; one partially successful mission, 1400 miles

b. Sep - Dec 68. Program technical review conducted by Mr. John Plummer's group from LMSC. Major design mods, engine inlet and electrical systems.

John Plummer
18 Mar 1970

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Control System

c. 15 Dec 68 - 10 Jul 69. Four test flights. Three of the four were successful.

d. 10 Nov 69. First operational test mission. Computational errors in INS computer prevented drone from flying programmed route.

e. 20 Feb 70. Completely successful test mission, INS program changes validated, fail-safe feature incorporated in INS program.

5. Cost Summary:

a. R&D, Production and Test. Approximately \$200 million through FY-70 (includes original 5 drones developed and tested under the OXCART program.) R&D Prod & Test costs are complete.

b. Contractor support cost, FY-70: \$5.9 million.

c. Contractor support cost Forecast, FY-71: \$6.3 million

6. Operating Unit:

4200 Support Squadron, Beale AFB. Two B-52's, three flight crews, Blue Suit maintenance. Squadron on Alert status - has the capability to launch drone within 6 days from notification.

FRANK W. HARTLEY, Jr
Col, USAF
Director, Program D

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