DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

2 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR CEMERAL HARD

SUBJECT: TAGBOARD Management Concept

Attached is the TATBOARN Program Concept. This document is forwarded for your review, comments and coordination prior to forwarding to Dr. Flax for approval. Copies have been furnished to the JRC, CIA and the Air Force (AFXOPR, Colonel Beerli) for similar coordination.

Request comments/coordination as soon as practicable.

1 Attachment Flan (BYE 12286-68) FRANK W. HARTLEY, JR Colonel, USAF

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The purpose of this plan is to describe in general terms the Table 10 system and its operation, to publish a concept whereby its sole employment operational status, and to establish a concept whereby its sole employment will be against recommissance objectives of National significance. This capability will supplement satellite operations by providing relatively large scale photography over specific objectives, and complement conventional aircraft by providing an unmanned alternative which destroys itself in the event of abort over enemy territory.

General

The management responsibility and control will remain in NRO channels as implemented by the Director, Program D. When declared operationally ready, the operational control of this system will be vested within the JCS(JRC).

Description

- a. D-21 (Drone)
- (1) The D-21 is a midwing monoplane of metal (primarily titanium) and plastic construction powered by one RJ-43 Marquardt ramjet. The interior arrangement may be considered as four sections in a fore to aft relationaship. The first section is the engine fir inlet with fixed spike and by-pass installation to control air flow and boundary layer removal. The second section is the equipment bay which houses the payload, recovery parachute, and high cost electronic gear. The third section consists of three inter-connected fuel tanks with a 5900 pound capacity.

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The fourth section is devoted to the installation of the engine, that pipe and normale. The external configuration of the alremat is based on a malified delta wing platform. The forebody incorporates chines which reduce radar return and act as a canard-like surface. The engine which provides 1800 pounds thrust at operating altitudes is in the afterbody; the circular air inlet with its spike is the extrema forward nose resulting in a smooth, streamlined appearance. Physical dimensions are: span - 19.75 feet; length - 42.83 feet; height - 7.08 feet; zero fuel weight - 5300 pounds; start of cruise weight - 11,200 pounds.

Performance is 3000 NM at a constant M 3.25; initial altitude \$0,000 feet and after a cruise climb the profile will reach 95,000 feet.

(2) A solid propellant rocket booster providing an average of 30,000 pounds of thrust for 90-100 seconds is fitted to the bottom of the D-21. The vehicle is dropped from the B-52 at 40.000 feet and M = .83 in the same manner used for the X-15. The booster then ignites and accelerates the D-21 to M = 3.2 - 3.4 at an altitude of 80.000 - 85.000feet. There the motor burns out and the booster case and pylon (attaching the booster to the D-21) are jettisoned. The rocket motor is 422 inches long including nozzle, 30 inches in diameter and weighs approximately 12,500 pounds. It is supported at the bottom centerline of the D-21 at three points. Two of these take vertical loads and the third supports against thrust and roll loads. The attachments are made with explosive bolts for simple reliable release; a thruster will apply a load to the casing at ejection at the approximate center of percussion of the casing in order to rotate it nose down and insure good separation. After jettison of the booster the D-21 accelerates or decelerates to its design BYE 12286-68 2

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M 3.25 and proceeds on a climbing profile.

- (3) A Honeywell MH390-D in right Navigation Dystem, installed on the equipment bay hatch, provides steering signals to the autopilot and command signals to the sensor. Thirty-two commands (turns, or p-31 functions at specified geographic positions) can be effected. D-21 position error may be updated to the accuracy of the B+52 immediately prior to launch. Maximum error at launch, using the stellar tracker in the B-52, will be 1.7 NM. During free flight the maximum rate of error buildup will be 1.5 NM/hour. Other INS functions are to turn booster ignition on, arm the destruct mechanism, turn the command receiver and TM on/off, turn payload on, select mode and shutter speed, turn the beacon and X-Band transponder on, and to terminate flight by cutting engine fuel.
- (4) An in-flight check-out system is installed and controlled by the Launch Control Officer(s). The D-21 INS platform, altitude switches, command system, hydraulic system, fuel system, APU, and battery are monitored continuously at the LCO station. During mated flight the LCO controls the D-21 hydraulic and electrical systems, and updates the INS. Prior to launch, the LCO tests the flight control system, the INS, payload, electrical system, command receiver, and turns the fuel pumps on. A complete D-21 check except for engine operation is achieved. Any no-go situation which cannot be corrected in flight constitutes a fail safe abort condition.
- (5) A telemetry system is installed in the D-21B to provide sufficient data to the B-52 to determine whether or not the D-21 is performing satisfactorily. TM is turned off automatically ten minutes after BYE 12286-68

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Mach mumber; heading; time and navigation date; APU speed; burner pressure; booster separation; and, inlet condition. Evaluation of these date provides for a "command destruct" prerogative in the most critical part of free flight. The transmitter is an off-the-shelf component installed in the gyro well; a notch entenna is built into the trailing edge of the vertical stabilizer. The B-52 has two antenna blades mounted on top the fuselage to give omni-directional coverage in the horizontal plane. This eliminates the need for the B-52 to maintain constant heading during the ten-minute monitoring period. The TM signal is turned on again to assist in the recovery phase; however, since this equipment is not mounted on the jettisonable hatch, its transmissions are lost at the moment of payload ejection.

(6) A Hycon HR 335 camera (24 inch FL, F .6 lens, 9x9 format) weighing approximately 290 pounds provides the only D-21 reconnaissance capability. Resolution is 105 lines/MM AWAR on SO 206 (low contrast target) and 115 lines on SO 3400. IMC is achieved by tracking the scan mirror; a Perkin Elmer V/H sensor is provided. Magazine capacity is 4,500 feet of 9½ inch wide thin base film providing 5600 exposures. The camera operates through five modes: vertical, and 19° and 36° either side of flight track. The three position mode will provide a continuous swath of photographic coverage 16NM by 3900NM (approximate), and the five position mode 28NM by 3020NM (approximate). In-flight data will be recorded on the film and will consist of latitude, longitude, time, BYE 12286-63 Cy 4 of 4 cys

oblique position, sui exposure humber. Cen com rea have been delivered with eleven more on order.

- (7) There are two pyrobechnic devices included and ejects the equipment hatch at termination of flight, and the record is used to destroy the aircraft. The destruct system is arised by time or common radio after founds and is arbunded by altitude from flight, or by altitude/command during terminal pieces. The payload cannot be destroyed after the hatch is ejected.
- (8) A command receiver (430 MC) is the means whereby back-up control of the beacen, ramjet and booster ignition, booster eject, fuel on, fuel shut-off, puckage eject, destruct, destruct disable and destruct arm is effected by either the launch or the recovery aircraft. Back-up command is normally initiated immediately after INS programmed command.
- (9) A Sara beacon (243 MC) and X-Band transponder are installed on the equipment hatch to assist in recovery operations. The beacon provides directional information limited to line of sight; the transponder provides range and bearing to the extent of JC 130 APN-59 navigation radar capability as modified, approximately 500 NM.
- (10) The raw reconnaissance data will be air recovered by JC-130. The equipment hatch, to be ejected, will include the camera, magazine, camera electronics, INS and computer, stability augmentation system, beacon, transponder, and command receiver. Package weight will approximate 1000 pounds. Ejection of the package from the drone will occur at a predetermined altitude of 60,000 feet.
 - (11) There are 15 D-21's produced with 19 additional on order. BYE 12286-68 Cy <u>박</u> of <u>박</u> cys

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b. The B-50 tells of a land "N" which no little from the correlary bases mission; the main differences being the discope of the Dust and graper positions to Lounch Control Officer (160) positions, a pylon unles each Wing for physically sating the vehicles, an umbilled interface for electrical and bleed air connections, and the addition of a Stallarinertial navigation system. The two LCO positions provide completely independent launch control functions for each of the D-218 aircraft. This includes monitoring of D-21 status during mated flight, pre-launch check-out of go-no-go systems, and post launch monitoring of system status by means of a telemetering (TM) function. A radio command system operating on a frequency of 430 MC is installed at the LCO stations as a back-up means of commanding D-21 functions normally initiated by INS or other sensor signals, and for commanding destruct. The system consists of two transmitters providing a total of ten channels, two 10 watt power amplifiers, and a top and bottom blade antenna selectable by a coax switch to insure reliable contact with the D-21 during both mated and free flight. Commands which can be transmitted from the LCO station are: ramjet ignition and booster ignition inhibit, booster eject, fuel on, destruct arm destruct disable, package eject, fuel off, beacon and TM on and destruct. The pylon installation allows full use of the flap system for take-off/landings. The pylons are attached through a bolt pattern which exists on the B-52 wing; no beef-up is required.

System Operation

After take-off the mated system will be air refueled, if necessary, to make good a desired penetration point and route. No provisions are made to refuel the D-21 from the B-52. During cruise the launch control BYE 12286-68 Cy 4 of 4 cys

officer will ashitor D-21 go-no-graying by reams of the in-fil ha dhick-out system. Just prior to separation the 2-22 114 is up hetel and all final chacks concluded. Separation occurs at 47,000 feat, N = .Aj. The launch is similar to the X-13 and Heard Dog but less critical since the vertical tail does not pass through the B-42 wing. Downward scooleretion is rapid to preclude interel displacement into the 3-5%'s each as or fuselage. The boost phase begins 5 seconds after launch when the U-21 is well away from the B-52. Booster ignition is initiated by the INS and time delays in the D-21 with back-up by the B-52 command radio. Burn out nominally occurs at 80,000 feet and M = 3.3; however, actual conditions at burn out are dependent upon variations in booster thrust and impulse, launch conditions, atmospherics, and other factors. These variations are handled during transition to cruise by the automatic flight control system. After burn out the booster is separated automatically from the D-21 by means of explosive bolts, again with back-up command available from the B-52 radio. Prior to booster burn out, at approximately M 2.5, the ramjet engine is lighted automatically. The D-21 then accelerates to M 3.25 and a cruise climb at constant Mach is maintained for sortie duration. Final altitude will be approximately 95,000 feet. Sixty seconds after launch the destruct mechanism is armed by the INS with backup through B-52 command radio. From that point until the "destruct disable" function is actuated or the D-21 radio receiver turned off, or the D-21 is out of range, the D-21 may be destroyed by command radio from the B-52. Flight characteristics of the D-21 will be monitored by the LCO's from separation through the first ten minutes (approximately) of flight by means of TM. Any condition not meeting established minima can . BYE 12286-68 Cy 4 of 4 cys

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be followed by comment descrabt. When out of range of the H-bb, alls Till turns the D-21 receiver off to proceed in limitertient or intentional disruptive commends. However, the D-SQ will dealers itemic in the events of abort by priming through a pre-established altitude. The IMC/estable combination provides control of the flight throughout the profile. Thirtytwo commands are bossible. They can be constand in turning the drone, charging rods of camera operation or expreising other options; i.e., beacon and TM on, destruct disable, fuel off, etc. Wherever possible, discreve functions such as beacon on, TM on, and destruct disable, should be planned for those places in the profile where a turn has to be made. Since all commands must occur at a specified lat/long, the discretes can be accommodated at a desired change in track without consuming an additional command option. The navigational CEP is expected to be no greater than 4.7 NM at termination of flight with a 95 percent assurance that it will be no greater than 9 MM. With lateral coverage extending to 14 MM either side of flight track, no difficulty is envisioned in providing stereo photography of specific objectives. (The film supply is adequate for 3000+ NM in the five position mode, therefore, no on-off operation of the camera or change of mode is necessary once it is turned on.) At a predetermined point, the INS turns the command receiver on in preparation for flight termination. The drone's S-Band beacon, TM and X-Band transponder is next activated, by either INS or command radio from the recovery aircraft, to provide a means for tracking by the JC-130 as necessary to reach the planned recovery area. Prior to this event, however, destruct disable must be commanded by the JC-130. After fuel off, the drone is programmed into a constant pressure descent to 60,000 feet where payload BYE 12286-68 Cy of 4 cys

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by the recovery already. The easement later the district direct is re-astablished and the drone is then destroyed as it passes through the altitude destruct some, 52,700 feet. The 30-130 will be provided flight track, launch time, time and place for acquisition ands to be turned on, time and place for fuel off, and programmed recovery area. They will be in the recovery area in advance and will monitor drone progress by means of its beacon, TM and transponder. The transponder will provide a relatively accurate means of insuring that back-up commands from the JC-130's occur at the proper point in the profile. After recovery of the payload using standard technique, the JC-130's will return to their deployment base. The film will then be returned to the CONUS or as directed for processing and interpretation.

Flight Testing

- a. Flight testing will conclude during 1968. Mated flights have demonstrated the ability of the B-52 to carry the D-21 to drop speed, evaluated the effect of sub-sonic speeds on drone systems, and established the effect on B-52 performance, stability, and handling characteristics and structural integrity when carrying one/two D-21's.
- b. The data to be accumulated and number of flights prior to separation is to be determined by the contractor. Several drones have been especially instrumented and are available for the test phase. Instrumentation includes photo recording panels and FM/FM telemetry systems for recording/transmission of those data needed to establish performance and verify profile capability. Specifically, booster operation, navigation tolerances, range capability, adherence to programmed flight, engine BYE 12286-68 Cy 4 of 4 cys

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porth respectively, so more performance, and respectively of motions will be projected.

Some national and/or equablished. Each from flight-will be projected for motional interfere, each will be a full range offere. At least one separation will be preceded by an 18-hour material flight to establish 150 rate error and the offects of cold souk. The Real flights will be scheduled for the PMR; separation to occur just off the California coast or Hawaii with recovery in a predesignated area. Camera operation probably will be demonstrated over the Pacific Grean. Tests will be programmed for areas where relatively uninhabited islands can be overflown. With the addition of resolution targets on these islands, an accurate reading of

c. Use of the PMR has been negotiated. Down range monitoring and control functions such as radar tracking, space time positioning, telemetry acquisition and recording, and range safety from launch through destruction is available through the use of ships and range aircraft. Compatibility of equipments to function has been established. For range safety purposes during test flight only, a "C" band beacon has been added to the equipment hatch to provide an additional means of radar acquisition and tracking.

camera resolution will be possible.

- d. JC-130 air recovery aircraft will be required for both the test and operational phases. The AFSC 6594th Test Group has been augmented for this mission. Recovery equipment has been tested and is adequate for the D-21 package. Radio equipments for commanding D-21 functions and receipt of acquisition aids are compatible.
- e. A new parachute system for air recovery of the payload has been

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- f. One committed been tested in the Lande draigher at Wellis and others in actual flight under consistent simulating closely their anticipated environment. Final testing will be conducted when the D-21 flies full range over the FMR.
- g. SAC and ADF have developed a MD-213 postware program for operational sorties to be run on the 7090 computer and transmitted vin the 1004 data link.
 - h. Flight test responsibilities
- (1) Director, Program D, is responsible for all aspects of the TAGBOARD Program. He will provide guidance as necessary to the activities involved and insure that support for development/test/operations is made available as required. He will make inputs from time to time in those areas of the flight test program where information concerning tactics or system usage may be appropriate.
 - (2) Contracting and security are to be performed by the CIA.
- (3) ADP is responsible for development of the D-21 vehicles, sub-contracting for all subsystems except the sensor, modifying the B-52, and conducting the test flight program. ADP is charged with the requirement for timely identification of DoD assets not now available to them but which will be needed in fulfilling their responsibilities.
- (4) will provide material support to include continued review of spares and AGE requirements.
- (5) Hycon is responsible for development of the sensor and BYE 12286-68 Cy $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ of $\underline{\mathcal{Y}}$ cys

partial path, in the flight tody program.

- (6) Area 31 will support the Taglacian by providing the of timed familiates during to be applicated operational physics.
- (7) B-52 maintenance will be blue suit except for those places involving the special modification. Such maintenance unital D-21/sender maintenance will be contractor performal.
- (8) The military maintenance offert will be directed towards meeting flight schedules established by the ADP or as modified by the Program Director where range conflicts may exist. However, the final decision to fly a given sortis will be at the discretion of the center AP member and will depend upon assurance from both contract and blue suit maintenance that the total system is ready for flight.
- (9) SAC will provide B-52 aircraft, flight and maintenance personnel, and materiel support as necessary.

Operational Concept

a. Policy

Once TAGBOARD is considered operational and is so certified by the DNRO, control of all missions will be exercised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the operational commander. The Strategic Air Command will prepare mission profiles based on requirements as contained in the current COMIREX target list as approved by USIB. On a monthly basis, mission or program approval will be obtained from the 303 Committee for the forthcoming month. This will be accomplished by the Joint Chiefs of Staff concurrent with the normal monthly reconnaissance schedule submitted by the DNRO. When directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, SAC will execute the approved mission or missions.

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b. Wim Processing and Exploitation

TACHOARD Film will be prosected and explaited on a similar by mission basis as directed by DURC. Film returned to CONES will be proceed by a facility designated by the DURO and exploited by the National Photographic Interpretation Center (%) (NPIC).

When directed by the DNNO, film processing and exploitation outside CONUS will be accomplished at the Overseas Processing and Interpretation Center (OPIC) specifically designated. Duplicate film copy, Immediate Photo Interpretation Report (IPIR) and follow-on report distribution will be determined by the USIB.

c. Organization

The tactical organization will be a small SAC element assigned to Beale AFB, California, with duty at Area 51 until flight test and initial preparation phases are completed. The unit will consist of three crews and a minimum number of command, operations, and maintenance personnel responsive directly (operationally) to SAC. During the initial operating phase, all D-21 maintenance (airplane general, electronic, engine, navigation, communications, sensor) will be performed by a contractor team numbering approximately seventy personnel. The head of this team will function as the chief of special maintenance for the Deputy of Materiel of the operating detachment. Training for the "blue suit" capability for the D-21B and associated B-52 modifications was started on 15 January

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d. Capability

The tactical organization will achieve a capability to launch two operational sorties per month. Flight crew checkout and proficiency training in B-52 aircraft will be as prescribed by SAC directives. The flying hour program for this unit will be established by SAC; crew to aircraft ratio will be $1\frac{1}{2}$: 1. There will be no requirement for mobility or deployment planning or exercising of this unit.

e. Employment

This system will be employed solely against targets of National significance. When authority to operate is granted, a requirements list provided by USIB will be forwarded by DIA in coordination with JCS/JRC to SAC. A computer flight plan (or plans) will be developed by SAC covering the established objectives. A weather watch will be instituted monitoring conditions for take-off, the refueling area, target conditions, BYE 12286-68 Cy 4 of 4 cys

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terbinant to this biarrove i absorbtions will deprior to the area deput quitan to confunt air recovery. Challerly, an tir refugitary decembers will doping if required. The Stronogie Air Communic (CACRECON SEA), and the operational commander, will closely monitor the weather in all approved agree-blooks speak. When the Westpers as foregreet by their Weather Control, is derecast to be satisfactory for the alaston, SACwill notify the JUS and request authority to launch an approved mission. If approved by the JCS, the appropriate unified and specified commonly will be directed by the JCS to execute and support the mission. On receipt of mission approval, if air refueling is required, the KC-135 tanker(s) will proceed to the designated refueling area for rendezvous and fuel transfer with the mated system. After refueling, the mission proceeds to the launch point where final check of the D-21's is concluded and one drone selected for launch. After launch, if necessary, the B-52 again refuels from the tanker aircraft and returns to home base with the spare drone. After its sortie, the D-21 is met by JC-130 recovery aircraft where air snatch of the payload and drone destruction occurs. Operations are concluded by the JC-130 detachment when the film is returned for processing and exploitation.

f. Communications

TAGBOARD teletype and data requirements will be supported within the existing NRO BYEMAN communications network. Data capability between SAC, Beale AFB, and/or Area 51 is adequate for flight plan information. Teletype support will be provided by the NRO/communications network which will also provide multiple addressing capability within the BYEMAN system.

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Military percented resources will be provided by SAG. The USAF Military Percented Senter will provide for a two-year stabilised tour for assigned personnel with a planned rotational program to preclude excessive losses of trained and cleared personnel at one time. It will also preclude the premature loss of specially trained personnel to USAF and SAC personnel levies.

h. Operational Validation/Verification Test

Following the completion of the R&D phase, the operational validation phase will commence. Participating organizations will develop CPX and operational test plans which will be executed to determine the operational readiness capability of the TAGBOARD system as well as staff and operating organizations. The results of the validation tests will be submitted to Director, Program D, for review and evaluation. The DNRO will be the final authority for declaring TAGBOARD operationally ready.

i. TAGBOARD System Project Office (SPO)

A modified SPO function will remain at Eurbank under the control of Director, Program D. Approximately two personnel will be assigned to interface between the contractor and SAC.

j. Security

Project TAGBOARD testing and initial flight phases will be conducted

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do a logal from much progress which is from the CAUNIST and WILL require CAUNIST security access approved on a prepagainster to TAUSTIC access.

When the Ireject is declared operational and moved to Mean's All, Project TAGBOARD will be experient from Project CKCART and will be operated as a separate security compartment within the DYEMAN Commity Control System. This will assure that all aspects of the Project remain "black" during both testing and operational phases. Overall management of Project TAGBOARD security is the responsibility of Director, Program D, as agent of the DURO. Specific responsibilities for the security of Project TAGBOARD, vested in the several participating organizations, are defined as follows:

Director, Program D will:

- (1) Under delegation from DNRO, exercise overall security management responsibility for Project TAGBOARD, to be operated in accordance with security policy guidance provided by the Offices of the DCI.
- (2) In coordination with JRC, CIA and SAFSF, prepare a <u>Project TAGBOARD Security Guide</u> to be approved by DNRO.
- (3) Define appropriate channels of communications for matters related to the security of Project TAGBOARD, to include primary responsibility for all security arrangements and coordination actions incidental to launch vehicle modification, reconnaissance system test, logistical, and communications support and operational coordination.
- (4) Direct implementation of Project TAGBOARD security policies and procedures throughout the Department of Defense.
- (5) Approve must-know or provide advice and guidance to DNRO

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- (6), indvise galdriger on the FAC DATEMER Less than its enterior et on the poster main sell up production.
- (7) Provide a qualified project security stall officer to operate under the direct superviolen of the SAC TABLOOK Detectment Community.

 This individual, in addition to providing overall decurity support to the Detectment Community, will be operationally responsible for the security of all interface with CIA Industrial security and SAFSP, Satellite Control Facility (SCF) supporting elements.
- (8) Approve those portions of JRC and/or SAC Operations Orders that relate to security and otherwise respond as a mandatory point of coordination for JRC and SAC on all matters related to Project TAGEOARD security.
- (9) Insure on behalf of CIA/OSA, necessary access to the SAU TAGBOARD Detachment and environs by contractors' personnel.
- (10) Coordinate all actions related to TAGBOARD effecting security at Area 51 with CTA/OSA.
- (11) Advise DNRO, through the NRO Staff, of all matters having a significant impact upon Project TAGBOARD security.

The NRO Steff will:

- (1) Provide staff security guidance to the DNRO.
- (2) Provide assistance to Director, Program D, where necessary to the implementation of TAGBOARD security policies and procedures.
- (3) Provide communications security (COMSEC) support and guidance to Director, Program D.

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mation for DNAO opproval, of operational continuous plans of appropriate to 303 Completes requirements.

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- (1) Through the OSA/OIA, continue to provide a BYTHIN industrial security program in support of Project TAGBOARD. This will include:
- (a) conducting prerequisite personnel security investigations and security determinations related to all contractors' employees in accordance with BYEMAN standards; (b) making "must-know" decisions related to all contractors' employees proposed for access, to be determined by the level of effort necessary under the contract; and, (c) overall supervision of Project TAGBOARD activities at contractors' facilities.
- (2) Continue to exercise primary security responsibility for all activity conducted at or related to Area 51.
- (3) Approve must-know for all CIA employees proposed for TAGBOARD access. Insure compliance with BYEMAN personnel security standards in such cases.
- (4) Through the Compartmented Information Branch (CIB/CIA) maintain as a service of common concern, a master list of all individuals approved for and indoctrinated into Project TAGBSARD.

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Define security procedures and monitor activities related to BYE 12286-69
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policy and procedures throughout all supporting military demonts.

- (2) Insular the propertiation of operational Eccurity Instructions in conformated with Project CARSCARD security policy and procedures.
- (3) Insure implementation of those contingency plans approve t by DNRO upon advice and guidance of the ICPC.

The DTA will:

- (1) Manage that program related to the prerequisite personnel security review and certification of all DoD related personnel proposed for Project TAGBOARD access.
- (2) Insure the implementation of appropriate duty and travel restrictions to all DoD related personnel who are provided access to the project.
- (3) Provide access to DoD BYEMAN communications and security control facilities upon request.