

~~TOP SECRET TAGBOARD~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM



~~IS~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OPN B 34(3)

18 March 1970

THE NRO STAFF

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 [redacted]

Camera: 24 inch focal length, F5.6 lens, coverage 3000 NM X 28NM swath stereo, resolution 2 ft 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

21 MAR 71 17

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:

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

21 MAR 71 17

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.

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET TAGBOARD~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
DDI DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

BYE-12292-70
CONTROL NO. 1 OF 4 COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
003-18-002

~~TOP SECRET~~HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
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.
FRANK W. HARTLEY, Jr
Col, USAF
Director, Program D

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~TOP SECRET~~
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLYCONTROL NO. BYE-12292-70
COPY 1 OF 4 COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES