

D-21 DRONE

CONTINGENCY PLAN

I. AUTHORITY:

This contingency plan was approved by the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, as Chairman, Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee, upon advice and guidance of the committee membership on

II. OBJECTIVE:

Through the Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee (ICPC), to establish a preplanned coordinated U.S. Government response to contingencies relating to D-21 drone reconnaissance missions conducted over denied areas, exclusive of those conducted peripherally or within the Southeast Asian military theater of operations.

III. GENERAL:

A. In addition to taking specific action prescribed herein, personnel in receipt of information concerning formal protest, public denunciation, and/or circumstances surrounding an actual or alleged incident will expeditiously route all such information, through their own appropriate department or agency ICPC representative, to the Chairman, ICPC. The Chairman, in turn, will decide upon one or more of the following courses of action:

1. To take no further action because the provisions of current contingency plans adequately cover the situation.
2. To call a meeting of the ICPC for the purpose of developing and coordinating an additional U.S. Government response.
3. To refer the matter to higher authority.

B. Within their respective department or agency, ICPC representatives will insure that all U.S. Government

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activities which are not a part of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), but which may become involved in contingencies adversely affecting the conduct of the NRP, are covered by current contingency plans which have been coordinated with the ICPC.

C. Except as specified herein, no initial or follow-up action or statements will be made without the approval of the Chairman, ICPC.

D. In general, this plan is designed as follows:

1. To allow R&D tests and approved overflight operations to be conducted with the least amount of publicity and to protect the true purpose of the vehicle.

2. To conceal intelligence community participation in the development and utilization of the D-21.

3. To provide guidance and procedures to be adhered to should the following situations occur:

- a. Visual sighting at Beale AFB or in flight.
- b. Visual sighting because of diverted/forced landing with D-21 attached.
- c. Crash/mishap involving B-52H with evidence of D-21.
- d. Crash/mishap of B-52H without evidence of D-21.
- e. D-21 accident in an inhabited, undenied area.
- f. D-21 accident in an uninhabited, undenied area.
- g. Protest without incident.
- h. Crash of D-21 in denied area.

IV. POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES:

A. Visual sighting at Beale AFB or in flight.

The following news release will be made by [redacted] through [redacted] or the local PIO at the direction of [redacted] in response to query only: "The article is an unmanned experimental vehicle."

B. [redacted] will make the following additional information available on query only:

Q. Who is the manufacturer/contractor?

A. LAC.

Q. What type of vehicle is it?

A. An unmanned experimental vehicle.

Q. What is the nature of the experiment?

A. High altitude testing.

Q. Who is conducting the testing?

A. The 4200th Support Squadron (SAC), Beale AFB, in conjunction with the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Q. Is it a new weapon prototype?

A. It carries no armament and is not a weapons system.

Q. Then what is it?

A. An unmanned experimental vehicle. Details as to its functions are classified.

C. Visual sighting because of diverted/forced landing with D-21 attached:

The following news release will be made by [redacted] through [redacted] or the local PIO at the direction of [redacted] in response to query only: "A B-52H carrying an unmanned experimental vehicle and operating from Beale AFB today diverted to [redacted] AFB (if applicable). Routine emergency landing procedures were used as a precautionary measure."

D. Crash/mishap involving B-52H with evidence of D-21:

[redacted] or local PIO at direction of [redacted] will make the following news release automatically: "A B-52H operating from Beale AFB crashed at [redacted] on [redacted]. This aircraft was operating in conjunction with an Air Force unmanned experimental vehicle. An Air Force investigating team is en route (on the scene)." Following such a release, a full examination will be made of the circumstances and an additional release, if appropriate, will be devised.

E. Crash/mishap of B-52H without evidence of D-21:

Normal accident release will apply.

F. D-21 accident in an inhabited, undenied area:

The following news release will be made by [redacted] through [redacted] or local PIO at the direction of [redacted] PA: "An unmanned experimental vehicle operating from Beale AFB crashed at [redacted] on [redacted]. An Air Force investigating team is en route (on the scene)." Following such a release, a full examination will be made of the circumstances and an additional release, if appropriate, will be devised.

G. D-21 accident in an uninhabited, undenied area:

The following news release will be made by [redacted] through [redacted] or the local PIO at the direction of [redacted] in response to query only: "We are investigating the incident." Following such a response, a full examination will be made of all circumstances, and further release, if appropriate, will be formulated.

H. Protest without incident:

1. In the event that an operationally successful overflight results in formal protest or public denunciation, the initial U.S. Government response will be one of "no comment."

2. Depending upon the circumstances (flight path, origination of the protest, degree and extent of public denunciation) the Chairman, ICPC, or higher authority, may consider the following courses of action:

a. Acknowledging the use of an unarmed reconnaissance drone for essential surveillance of hostile military

activity which is an immediate threat to the security of the U.S. and the Free World.

b. Acknowledging that, because of mechanical or navigational difficulties, an unarmed reconnaissance drone had strayed from its scheduled flight path which was well outside of the protesting country's territorial boundaries.

I. Loss of drone in denied areas:

1. In the event that a drone is lost in a denied area, no statement whatsoever shall be volunteered until there is a full evaluation by the Chairman, ICPC, or higher authority, of the circumstances surrounding the incident and the political ramifications.

2. News media queries will be referred to the Department of State. The latter, through a properly designated spokesman, will state only that the alleged incident is under investigation.

3. After evaluation, the Chairman, ICPC, or higher authority, will authorize an appropriately worded statement. The sole spokesman for the U.S. Government will be the Department of State. The Chairman, ICPC, with the advice and guidance of the committee membership, will initially consider the adequacy of either making no comment, denying knowledge of the incident, or responding in accordance with paragraph IV.H.2.a and b, above.

V. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:

The following named individuals are responsible for the proper coordination and implementation within their respective department or agency, and, where appropriate, within contractor facilities under their control:

Dr. John L. McLucas, Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Mr. Frank M. Chapin, Executive Office of the President

Mr. Wymberley DeR Coerr, Department of State

Brig General Donald H. Ross, Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Daniel Z. Henkin, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs

Brig General Ralph D. Steakley, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Brig General Henry L. Hogan, III, Director of Infor-
mation, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
Agency [redacted] USAF, Defense Intelligence

Colonel Frank W. Hartley, Jr., Special Projects, The
Inspector General

LEW ALLEN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Executive Secretary
Interdepartmental Contingency
Planning Committee