

New D-21 Secrets Revealed
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(As prepared)

Good evening. I'm Cindy Allman, the Chief of the Information Review and Release Group at the National Reconnaissance Office and I'm honored to be here. In conjunction with the unveiling of the D-21 Drone today (codenamed "Tagboard"), my office added a collection of newly declassified D-21 records to the NRO.gov website. The collection consists of 97 records totaling 659 pages. The records span the early development, corrections of system failures and issues, and operational records for the planned missions over China.

Highlights of the record collection are:

- A 1967 Manufacturer's Model Specification of the D-21 that includes information about the D-21 drone attaining a speed greater than the Mach 3 which was faster than any other drone of the time.
- Another 1967 document entitled, "Operational Limits and Characteristics During Mated Flight and Launch," that details the drone's range of 3,000 nautical miles, further than any other drone of the time.
- A 1969 document titled, "Successful Tagboard Test Flight," that documents the drone's operational ceiling at 85,000 to 95,000 feet.
- A 1970 summary of Tagboard B-52 launches documenting air launches from a B-52 Stratofortress.
- A 1970 note to Dr. McLucas entitled "Tagboard Navigation March 1970," documenting the improved navigation system.
- A memorandum for the Secretary of Defense on the subject of "Tagboard Operational Missions from September 1969," that recommended four operational flights over southern China.

The D-21 technology developed in the 1962-1971 timeframe and the borrowed technology from the U2, A12, and SR71 reconnaissance aircrafts created a drone that the world had never seen. These advances in drone technology laid the ground work for the drone of the future. Please take a walk back into history by visiting the D-21 record collection on NRO.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this event.