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TAGBOARD

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



3 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: TAGBOARD Program Review

On Tuesday, 25 March 1969, a TAGBOARD Program Review was conducted by Director "D", with the two major contractors participating. This memorandum outlines the key points covered and my recommended actions to complete the flight test program.

The purpose of the program review was to make a current assessment of the TAGBOARD drone/camera system with emphasis on required efforts to demonstrate overall system reliability. Lockheed presented a summary of past launches, problems encountered, corrective actions, outstanding problems existing today, recommended launch schedule for R&D flights, and budgetary requirements. A similar presentation was made by Hycon on the camera system.

It is my judgment that the basic capability of the TAGBOARD concept was proven by the successful flight of Drone #515 on 15 December 1968. However, the failure of a subsequent test flight highlights the fact that reliability required for an operational program has not yet been attained.

To attain and demonstrate this reliability, three more R&D launches are proposed. The first one is scheduled for the week of 28 April 1969, the second in mid-June 1969 and the third launch in early August 1969. Hopefully the program could be declared operational by 1 September 1969.

While I consider three consecutive, successful flights as highly desirable, I do not consider this a rigid requirement. If the next two flights are successful, there is a strong possibility I would recommend to you that the following flight be an operational flight over denied territory.

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In view of the above, the FY 69 budget approvals have been reassessed and no additional funding will be required this fiscal year. However, some additive costs for the extended flight testing will be identified and submitted to you on 5 May 1969 in the FY 70 Financial Program recommendations. The total extent of these additive costs is not available at this time but our best estimate is that the additional flight testing will increase the FY 70 fund requirements by \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

Request your approval of the recommendations cited above and if you wish, I will be happy to discuss any of the above with you in detail at your convenience.

cc:

F. W. Hartley, Jr.
FRANK W. HARTLEY, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Director, Program D

Approved JOHN L. McLUCAS
Under Secretary of the Air Force
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Disapproved _____

COL. HARTLEY DISCUSSED THIS WITH ME BEFORE HE PREPARED THE MEMO. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THREE MORE R+D FLIGHTS ARE NEEDED. WE WILL ADDRESS THE FY 70 COSTS IN MAY - JUNE.

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Cy 1 of 3 cys
Pg 2 of 2 pgs

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