

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

April 7, 1965

Dear Bennie,

I am writing in response to your letter to me of 18 March on TAGBOARD. It is gratifying to realize the excellent support that AFSC has rendered to this program, and I am reassured by your confidence in meeting the test requirements.

I believe that the points raised in your letter concerning details of future test requirements merit, as you have indicated, a specific directive. The attached fact sheet should provide adequate information upon which you can issue a suitable directive through cleared channels.

I further agree on the need for continued stringent security and that documentation be held to a minimum. A direct liaison has existed between the program office here and your program monitor, and I am sure whatever additional limited documentation or directives that are essential can be mutually agreed upon between the program director and your program monitor.

Sincerely,



Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

1 Attachment
TAGBOARD Program

General B. A. Schriever
Commander
Air Force Systems Command
Andrews Air Force Base

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TAGBOARD PROGRAM

1. The TAGBOARD Program is to be included in the USAF Programming Document with precedence and priority of 1 - 3. The identifier has not yet been assigned but, together with priority, will be authorized for use by specified units when actively supporting TAGBOARD. The priority will be likewise applicable in resolving schedule conflicts where assets in limited quantity may be required simultaneously by competing programs.

2. AFSC support will be required in both the test and operational phases.

a. At this time we anticipate the test phase to continue 12 - 18 months. JC-130 support now provided from Edwards for parachute recovery tests should conclude by 1 June 1965. The next objective is separation of drone from carrier for which JC-130, PMR, and AFWTR support will be required. These tasks have been identified in detail by PMR directive. After initial separation, one flight per month is planned until tests are concluded. Two weeks' notification of separation dates will be provided all units participating.

b. The operational phase will require support from the 6594th Recovery Group only. Assuming an expenditure of ten drones during test, an additional ten will be available for actual operations. (There is some possibility of a follow-on buy of 15 drones). We contemplate a consumption no greater than two drones/month dependent upon target priority and weather conditions. At this time, all recovery operations are planned from Incirlik or Kadena (not simultaneously).

3. Since it would seem somewhat revealing for the 6594th, with its known mission, to suddenly begin deployment to either of the above bases, propose that cover flights be scheduled beginning FY 66. Prior to such deployment, coordination with the respective commands will be effected by this office. You will be further advised as to the date for actual initiation of this requirement; frequency should be approximately once per two months to either location on a random basis.

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