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ORD 1228-76

4 JUN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, TACANA/TCT

SUBJECT : 25 June 1976 TACANA Test Demonstration

REFERENCE : DDO/SED Memo 7 May 1976, Title SE Comments on TACANA and OTS/SDB Memo 154-76 TACANA Program.

1. In response to OTS/SDB memo 154-76 issued by the TACANA/TCT Chairman, the TACANA program test to be completed on 25 June will exercise the following Avian capabilities:

a. Clandestine acclimatization.

b. A-B-C flight behavior with search from A to B and clandestine release at A.

Two other program tasks will be accomplished subsequent to the test to be completed on 25 June. These tasks involve investigating several retention times for the A-B-C behavior and the impact of a major location change (2500 miles) on operational behavior.

2. The procedures listed below will be followed in preparation for the 25 June test.

a. Present Avian training of A-B-C flight behavior, including clandestine release at A and search behavior at A for B, will continue. The training will include clandestine release at point A, which will be located two to three miles from target B, search-oriented flight to target B (in a direction that is opposite from the return flight to the home loft) landing on the target and obtaining pictures of the target and the target area, and, finally, returning 50 miles to the home loft located in [redacted] Oklahoma.

b. On approximately 28 May 1976, a collateral effort will be undertaken in [redacted] Oklahoma, to determine if the Avian assets can be acclimatized to a new geographical location on a clandestine basis. To accomplish this task,

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approximately ten additional birds will be moved from the [redacted] California to the Oklahoma training area via airfreight. These birds will be based in a simulated second-story loft and their only view of the outside world will be provided through screens mounted in the housing of an air conditioner. These birds will be acclimatized in the field. These procedures will include exercise releases and return to the home loft through the air conditioner until homing training is started. During homing training, the initial release distance will be at least one mile. However, at least one or two birds will be taken from the home loft after acclimatization and transported to a distance of 50 miles for their first release. Even though the birds are not expected to be able to perform such a task, it will be important to demonstrate the extent to which such an initial homing release is feasible.

3. The results of the acclimatization procedures and the operational A-B-C behavior (including Avian camera photographs of the target area) will be demonstrated 25 June 1976. This demonstration will be arranged to enable the NIO/SA and any other designated visitors to observe the test from the various A-B-C positions.

4. On the assumption that the 25 June test will be successful, a new training/test site will be prepared for the birds by the end of June (possibly [redacted] California). [redacted] and the COTR will travel to [redacted] to make a final determination of the [redacted] area interim test site. The birds will be transported to this new test site "black," acclimatized and trained to "home" by clandestine means, and tested on A-B-C behavior against a simulated target. Upon satifactory performance of this task, a short period of reinforced target training will be accomplished to strengthen the "flight-to-target" behavior prior to moving the birds to Washington, DC. The move to Washington will be completed during the first week of August.

5. We agree that the test procedure described in the TCT Chairman's memorandum can possibly provide a number of preliminary answers to questions regarding the retention time of the target search behavior. Therefore, the following test schedule will be adopted for activities following arrival in Washington, DC.

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Activities	Weeks	Cumulative Time Weeks
a. Clandestine acclimatization	4	4
b. A-B-C flight test Kit #1	1	5
c. General bird maintenance	2	7
d. Flight test Kit #2	1	8
e. General bird maintenance	2	10
f. Flight test Kit #3	1	11

Completion of the Washington full-scale test in this manner should enable us to develop some preliminary information on the impact that varying time lapse between training and performance can have on performance of the A-B-C task.

Donald Reiser
Acting Director of Research and Development

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