Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527517

3.3(h)(2)

6.2(d)

ORD-030-76

10 FEB 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Barry D. Kelly, NIO/SA

SUBJECT: TACANA TCT Program

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Mr. Barry Kelly, NIO/SA, to Chairman, TACANA TCT, dated 12/11/75; Subject: Guidance from the PCP/TCT Evaluation Group (TS-206672-75)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to call your attention to the fact that the TACANA TCT project is entering a new phase which involves certain risks you should be cognizant of officially.

2. To review, the purpose of the project is to test the capability of pigeons to perform photographic intelligence collection missions against denied foreign targets. The birds will carry a small camera which is automatically actuated while they pass over the target area. The training program will take place in the United States against targets which will simulate the performance in a foreign country. The training and test sites which have been selected are in California, Oklahoma, and the Washington, D. C., area. The latter location has been selected for a final test mission prior to the conduct of a foreign intelligence mission. In this final test the birds will be trained to fly from a release point approximately three miles from the [redacted] to the simulated target at [redacted] and then fly to their "home" approximately 50 miles away in Washington, D. C. The "home" location will be one of the Agency buildings in the area. During the course of testing and training, it is possible that some birds will be lost along with their cameras. Should a camera be recovered by an unauthorized citizen and the film developed, there is the potential for unfavorable publicity to ensue. This publicity could conceivably take the line that the Government is releasing birds to photograph unwilling private citizens as another form of illegal domestic spying. In an effort to preclude or forestall such erroneous conclusions, we are instructing the contractor, [redacted] to label the camera and camera harnesses. The labels will be marked HOMING RESEARCH and will carry [redacted] telephone number. If questions arise regarding the purpose of the camera, [redacted] response will be that he uses the cameras to document the flight routes of the birds in connection with research he is doing in

Cl by [redacted] E2 IMPDET

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527517

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527517

SUBJECT: TACANA TCT Program

preparation for the publication of a book. In fact, he does indeed intend to publish a book that will deal with the knowledge gained from his lifetime experiences in the training of birds.

3. If you feel that it would be advisable to take other precautions or to obtain other official authorization to continue with this work, please advise us at the earliest possible date.

[redacted]

Donald L. Haas
Director of Research and Development

Distribution:
Orig. - Addressee
1 - D/ORD
1 - OTS/[redacted]
1 - LSR/ORD File
1 - LSR/ORD Chrono
1 - ORD Chrono
1 - ADD/S&T

LSR/ORD/DD/S&T:[redacted] kav:2702
Rewritten 2/6/76/DD/ORD:nrp

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527517