Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527480

CONFIDENTIAL

20 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT : ORD Bird Programs

1. On 13 December 1973, ORD/LSD personnel briefed EA/CH/OS personnel on their avian sensor and training programs. In attendance were [redacted] and [redacted] EA/CH/OS, [redacted] and [redacted] ORD/LSD, and Mr. Dan Hogan and the undersigned from OTS. The major purpose of the meeting was to make EA/CH/OS personnel aware of the programs and to determine their level of interest in the programs.

2. The avian sensor program involves the use of untrained migratory birds as environmental sample collectors for chemical warfare agents. This is a statistical study on the probability of capturing, in undenied areas, birds whose migration and nesting patterns would place them in or near suspected Soviet CW sites. Chemical analyses of the tissues of such birds would provide information on the types of CW agents being investigated. This is a basic study requiring no DDO input at this time.

3. The avian training program involves the use of trained birds to perform some act, e.g. photography, package emplacement, of operational significance in areas inaccessible to human agents. ORD personnel are working toward the development of an avian/photographic system applicable to a specific target. They are interested in conducting a basic study to determine the limits of usefulness of various avian species and are interested in obtaining requirements and possible operational scenarios to work against.

4. EA/CH/OS personnel stated that they could not identify any requirements, but suggested some possible scenarios. These are: a) Photograph of a specific room interior, b) Aerial photograph of targets located 20 miles or more from a suitable launch point, and c) Emplacement of a line between buildings over a distance of fifty feet or more.

E2 IMPDET CL BY [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527480

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527480

SUBJECT: ORD Bird Programs

5. [redacted] had attended a previous briefing on the capability. He stated that he had presented the program to the EA Division branch chiefs and emphasized that EA did not have a requirement for the capability.

M. David Boston
C/OTS/CB

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527480