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OXCART Status Report

I. OXCART Performance

A. As of 15 March 1966, a total of 2748 hours has been logged by OXCART A-12 aircraft on 1838 flights. Of the totals, 1267 flights accumulating 1772 hours were with the twin J-58 engine propulsion installation.

B. The following milestones have been achieved as of 15 March 1966:

Total Flights	1838
Total Flight Hours	2748:36
Total J-58 Flights	1267
Total J-58 Flight Hours	1772:18
Maximum Mach	3.29
Maximum Altitude	90,000 Ft.
Longest Sustained Flight with Two J-58 Engines	6:20 Hours
Longest Period of Sustained Flight Above Mach 3.2	1:14 Hours
Total Time Above Mach 3.0	146:33 Hours
Pre-overseas Operational Validation: Successfully completed in December 1965 Three aircraft have been identified for BLACK SHIELD	

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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C. Pre-overseas deployment validation/reliability flights, 97 in number, were conducted between mid-August and mid-December 1965 in the BLACK SHIELD configuration. The aircraft and systems have been successfully qualified for the operational mission.

D. Total A-12 aircraft inventory: Ten aircraft including one two-place trainer and two test aircraft.

II. OXCART Deployment Plan

A. The A-12 has been declared operationally ready and capable of performing photographic [] reconnaissance in the Pacific Theater to include:

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1. Major portions of the Chinese Mainland including all of South, East, Central and most of North China through the eastern tip of Mongolia through Manchuria to the Soviet Border.

2. North Korea

3. Indonesia

4. All of Southeast Asia

B. Operational missions can be conducted at altitudes of 76,000 feet and above at Mach 3.1 (1800 knots) speed. Range extension is accomplished utilizing aerial refuelings outside denied areas with specially configured KC-135 tankers of the Strategic Air Command. Elements of the 903rd ARS will be deployed to Kadena to provide this support. All missions are planned to launch from and recover at Kadena AB.

C. The program status provides for a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) of 15-21 days from notification to readiness for flight of first mission from Kadena. Plans for deployment of necessary personnel [] equipment and aircraft have been finalized and coordinated with ZI and overseas commands. Three A-12 aircraft will be deployed from [] to Kadena AB utilizing aerial refueling and an intermediate stop at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

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D. Project operations and maintenance facilities at Kadena AB
have been prepared to support the whole operation. Advanced echelon
from [] is in place.

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