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**MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Planning, Programming and Budgeting**

**THROUGH: Executive Officer, DD/S&T**

**SUBJECT: OXCART/BLACK SHIELD**

Attached is the briefing note you requested concerning BLACK SHIELD status and supplemental funding requirements.

*15/*

**JACK C. LEDFORD**  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director of Special Activities

**Attachment:**  
a/s

NRO review(s)  
completed.



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**BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

**SUBJECT: OXCART/BLACK SHIELD**

**I. Background**

In March 1965, Mr. John A. McCone expressed Agency concern with the increasing difficulties in obtaining photo-reconnaissance coverage of China, with special emphasis on South China, and North and South Viet Nam. He held a conference with Secretaries McNamara and Vance on March 18, 1965. This conference examined the increased SEA military activities and related threat of SAMs and MIG 21 attack techniques against U-2s and drone operations. It also considered the complex programming and targeting of satellite operations. The requirements for high quality, current photo coverage were clearly evident. As a consequence, Mr. McCone and Secretaries McNamara and Vance agreed that steps should be taken to establish the capability to operate OXCART from Kadena AB, Okinawa [redacted]. This decision included a construction program to improve the facilities at Kadena, as a part of the Air Force support program and the Agency team preparation of equipment, personnel and operating procedures and facilities.

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**II. Preparations**

In June 1965, you and Secretary Vance examined the details of our respective implementing programs. The Air Force support involved constructing new hangars, some modification of existing hangars, the building of new BOQ units, establishing necessary utilities, enlarging and installing new POL facilities, arranging for and improving the operations facilities, warehouse space, engine test stands, shops, security fencing and runway aprons. The cost was slightly in excess of [redacted] (See Attachment I)

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Agency project responsibilities were absorbed within programmed FY 1966 OXCART project funding, and it was decided the additional costs in personnel, travel and communications would be collected and to treat them as an unprogrammed requirement.

By the first of December 1965 we qualified the systems and accomplished the majority of the associated operational and logistic arrangements. (See Attachment II)

### III. Present Status

The 303 Committee reviewed the deployment of the OXCART capability to the Far East on 3 December 1965. The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, on 2 December 1965, had proposed that the 303 Committee consider the appropriateness of implementing the OXCART deployment in early January 1966. The 303 Committee took the position that an early January 1966 date was not the propitious time, as it would conflict with certain complex national and international problems and solutions to those problems which were to be sought during this time frame. The Committee did direct that all necessary steps be taken to prepare the operating base and that the OXCART project should posture itself to have an in place capability within a relatively short time, i.e., 21 days from the execution date. The intelligence requirement for the use of OXCART in the Far East was enunciated in [redacted], dated 30 November 1965.

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The 303 Committee, in its 20 January 1966 meeting, was informed that the OXCART Project had established a quick reaction capability (QRC) and was prepared to deploy at the direction of higher authority. On this occasion the 303 Committee asked that this state of readiness be maintained pending direction from higher authority. This is the current state of Project OXCART.

In the 303 meeting on 28 March 1966 we again reviewed the Southeast Asia situation and the need for deployment of OXCART. It was decided that current opinions on use of OXCART should be brought to the attention of higher authority at an early date.

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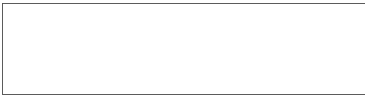
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IV. BLACK SHIELD Agency Budget Increase FY 1966

At the 303 Committee meeting on 3 December 1965 it was decided the Agency should replenish its resources to have a backup team in being, ready to replace the deployed (Kadena) team, or alternatively, to conduct secondary operations against denied territory. This was an enlargement of the basic (QRC) capability, and necessitated a re-examination of our personnel, travel and communication equipment requirements in FY 1966. This resulted in the recent Agency request for release of FY 1966 funds in the amount of . (See Attachment III)

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PS/OSA: [redacted] :sj (5 Apr 66)

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