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[ ] 8864-68

Copy 3 of 7

8 March 1968

*P. 1.2/1*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, DD/S&T

SUBJECT: OXCART Information

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Comptroller/DDS&T from  
Comptroller/OSA dated 7 March 1968,  
Same Subject [ ]-8826-68)

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Attached hereto is correction of information attached  
to the referent memorandum. It is requested that all  
copies of [ ]-8826-68 be returned to the Comptroller's  
Office, Office of Special Activities.

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[ ]

Comptroller  
Office of Special Activities

Attachment

**DD/S&T  
FILE COPY**

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OXCART

HANDLE VIA [ ]  
CONTROL SYSTEM

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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ATTACHMENT TO:

25X1A -8864-68OXCART INFORMATIONI. Brief History

- A. Program Go-Ahead
1. Design and Model - 29 August 1959
  2. Fabrication - 8 February 1960
- B. First Flight - 26 April 1962
- C. First Mach 3.2 Flight - 27 November 1963
- D. Operational Date, Mach 2.8 - 5 November 1964
- E. Operational Date, Mach 3.2 - 1 December 1965
- F. Number of Flights as of 29 February 1968 - 2731
- G. Number of Aircraft as of 29 February 1968 -
- |                        |   |          |
|------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Operationally Ready | - | 5        |
| 2. Test Aircraft       | - | 1        |
| 3. Trainer Aircraft    | - | 1        |
| 4. Aircraft in Storage | - | <u>2</u> |
|                        |   | 9        |

II. Phase-out History

- A. During 1966 a BOB/DOD/CIA study of OXCART A-12/USAF SR-71 aircraft programs was accomplished. In December 1966 after consideration of several alternatives and the combined aircraft fleet size, a Presidential decision was made to mothball the A-12 fleet effective 31 December 1967 with the SAC SR-71 program assuming

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responsibility for maintaining reconnaissance capability in Southeast Asia.

- B. In May 1967 a Presidential decision was made to deploy the A-12 to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, for primary purpose of overflight of North Vietnam.
- C. Since that time the decision to terminate the OXCART program has been extended twice at the recommendation of the EXCOM of the NRP to allow for further refinement of the SR-71 operational readiness posture. Each extension was for a three-month period. The first was announced on 23 October 1967 and the second on 29 December 1967.
- D. The SR-71 is scheduled to deploy to Kadena and to be ready to assume primary responsibility for North Vietnam missions by about 15 March 1968. The OXCART A-12 aircraft will remain at Kadena until 30 days after the SR-71 assumes responsibility, after which it will be redeployed to the United States.
- E. The OXCART program is now scheduled to maintain an operational readiness through 30 June 1968, after which the aircraft will be stored and the program terminated.

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III. Deployment Status

- A. Date OXCART directed to deploy to Kadena - 16 May 1967
- B. Date deployment completed - 26 May 1967
- C. Operationally-ready date after deployment - 28 May 1967
- D. First operational mission - 31 May 1967
- E. Planned redeployment date - 15 April 1968
- F. Operational mission summary as of 8 March 1968
  - 1. 28 missions flown of which -
    - 24 North Vietnam (47 photo flight lines)
    - 2 Cambodia (4 photo flight lines)
    - 2 North Korea (5 photo flight lines)

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