

OXC 6112
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10 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Report on Trip to Area 51 During Period
2 - 6 December 63

1. Primary purpose of trip was recurrency in F-101 and familiarization front seat ride in A-12. One flight was made in each aircraft with satisfactory results. Basic comment on A-12 is that seat is very uncomfortable, even for one-and-a-half hours, and aircraft is basically an instrument aircraft.

2. I attended a briefing given by [redacted] on Exercise Delta. Comments of this meeting are as follows:

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a. There is a serious timing problem on programming the slit openings for packages A and A1. Solution for present exercise: The package representatives will prepare the slit openings in consonance with [redacted] and the planning staff at Area 51. The possibility exists that these openings could be programmed into our computer, which will give us the option of not disclosing the over-flight route to the package representatives.

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b. Destruct cans: No firm policy is available to Area 51 on use of maps or let-down plates. This item will be incorporated in the critique.

c. Problem of loading more than one type package at a time: Limited hanger space at present time is deciding factor, but can be solved by staggering aircraft during exercise. Note: One aircraft will be loaded with Type 1 and one aircraft loaded with Type 1A.

d. Colonel Byerly of Beale Air Force Base would like to attend the critique; undecided at present time as to whether to invite him.

e. Subject of "take" procedures and what is needed after mission from Area 51 is undetermined at this time. Exercise will preclude "take" procedures.

f. Flight of A-12: I have advised [redacted] that he may fly A-12 on local training mission if it does not interfere with Exercise Delta.

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1.1 DECLASSIFIED
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g. It is planned to generate Aircraft No. 928 and 930 for this exercise. I advised that if Aircraft 930 was not in commission that aircraft should be generated as far as possible and aircraft towed to take-off position, if necessary, to realistically follow outline in Ops Order 10-63.

h. Removal of film from aircraft: A possible problem is the time lag necessary to allow aircraft to cool after maximum speed mission. Note: On flight at 3.2 last week a man burned his hand touching aircraft immediately after landing.

i. Use of C-130: Exercise may conflict with use of C-130 for engine pickup. Area will review this and generate recovery team as per existing SOP's.

j. The question was raised as to what takes precedence, flight test or Exercise Delta. [redacted] said Exercise Delta would take precedence. I agreed because the period of time that his facilities would not be available to Lockheed was for a very short duration and most likely during the early morning hours. I can see no conflict on this point.

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3. The subject of personnel retainability at Area 51 was raised by most every person there, other than [redacted]. As you know, [redacted] plans to depart in November. He would change his mind only under very drastic circumstances,

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[redacted] all have extended to June and July 1965 because:

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a. Their children are in school and they didn't want to break-up the school year.

b. They want to sell their houses during the spring period.

c. There are no replacements available for the time they would normally rotate; i.e., November and December 64.

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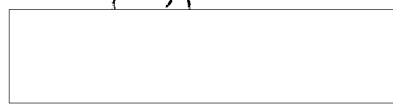
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d. Comment: It is mandatory that recruitment start immediately for these replacements to preclude a mass exodus without in-place transitioned replacements. If headquarter's policy will prevent all these personnel from departing in June 55, then these personnel prefer to depart at normal rotation dates, rather than be extended one day past their agreed-to extension.

4. Personnel problems at Area 51 and throughout the OXCART Project continue to be a point of issue.

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