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1 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Logistics/Procurement Division/Contract Branch

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Completion of Development of a New Type Personnel  
Carrying Balloon

1. Early development work on personnel carrying balloons resulted in a vehicle of 16,000 cubic foot gas capacity that was capable of carrying two men and equipment to altitudes believed to be suitable for personnel infiltration type operations. This vehicle was called the Balloon, Personnel, 302P. Specifications and drawings were supplied to Logistics and a quantity of these balloons were purchased. Research and Development work sponsored by other government services has resulted in improved balloon design and from this work a new type personnel balloon incorporating this design has been developed by TSS and specifications and drawings have been completed.

2. The nomenclature for the new type personnel balloon is Balloon, Personnel, 343P. Specifications and drawings have been delivered to OL/PD/CB/PS. The 343P Balloon has the same size and operating characteristics as the 302P but the new design affords a much greater factor of safety. It is highly recommended that the 343P balloon replace the 302P in all future procurement orders.

3. The 343P personnel balloon has been manufactured in limited quantities by General Mills Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota and General Mills is recommended for any future procurement of this balloon by the Office of Logistics. The cost of the 343P should not be greater than the 302P balloon and it is expected that a small reduction in cost should be effected.

4. It is requested that when a stock number is assigned to the Balloon, Personnel, 343P, TSS/Engineering Division and TSS/Admin/Logistics Branch be informed of it. If there is any question regarding performance, specification and drawings or other details of the 343P, TSS/Engineering Division will be glad to assist in any way.

Chief  
TSS/Engineering Division

DD/P/TSS/ED

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