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the HISTORY of the AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

VOL. 2

HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER
Air Research and Development Command
Edwards Air Force Base, California

PROJECT ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIVE
NUMBER 55-41

4 October 1955
Captain Raymond, FTOP/lec/24141

GRB-36/RF-84F Parasite Aircraft System (Nickname - FICON)

1. Brief Description of Test: In order to provide the Strategic Air Command with a greater capability for the accomplishment of long-range strategic photographic reconnaissance and bombing missions, certain numbers of RB-36 aircraft have been modified to carry an RF-84F aircraft. This RF-84F aircraft can be released from the GRB-36, perform its mission, and return and hook-up with the mother ship. The Air Force Flight Test Center will accomplish Phase IV testing on this combination.

2. Project Information:

a.	Weapon System No:	114M
b.	Aircraft Type & Serial No:	One GRB-36 Serial #49-2694 One RF-84F Serial #52-7258
c.	Responsible Center:	WADC
d.	Test Directive No:	5498-F1 dated 7 February 1955 5498-F2 dated 21 March 1955
e.	Priority:	1-B
f.	Precedence No:	See Current OPU
g.	Estimated Starting Date:	1 November 1955
h.	Desired Completion Date:	1 August 1956
i.	Required Completion Date:	1 November 1956
j.	Assigned to:	FTF
k.	Reports Control Symbol:	AF-R4
l.	Security Information:	See CD 356
m.	Name of Contractors Involved:	Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp. Republic Aviation Corporation

3. Supplementary Information:

a. Project Personnel:
AFFTC: GRB-36 B. Lyle Scofield, FTFEE, Extension #21951
RF-84F Lt. Charles C. Crawford, FTFEE, Extension #21951
ARDC: Lt. Colonel D. E. Good, RDZ-1SBL, Extension #22130
(GRB-36 tem Problems)

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3. Supplementary Information: (Cont'd)

a. Project Personnel: (Cont'd)
ARDC: Lt. Colonel Lavergne C. Jochim, RDZ-1SFA, Extension #29256 (RF-84F)
AFSWC: Major C. J. Bennett, SWVCF, Albuquerque #71711, Extension #446/7094

b. Nature of Tests: FTF will:
(1) Obtain limited Phase IV performance data on the GRB-36D, parasite RF-84F, and GRB-36D/RF-84F composite configuration sufficient to correlate these data with the performance of the standard B-36 and RF-84F airplanes.
(2) Obtain qualitative (pilot's evaluation) information on the stability and control characteristics of the FICON airplanes.
(3) In conjunction with the test program, provide familiarization training to a limited number of Air Force flight crews on the FICON system, if required. (Training requirement to be approved by Headquarters ARDC.)

c. Assignment of Aircraft: AFFTC and AFSWC will share the GRB-36D aircraft #49-2694 and will consolidate certain functional and performance tests as required. Assignment of carrier will be to AFFTC.

d. Coordination: Coordination with AFSWC will be accomplished in a joint test program schedule so that the carrier can be made available to AFSWC so that their portion of this test directive can be accomplished.

e. Flight Program Coordination:
(1) FTF will prepare and conduct the flight test program. Close coordination will be maintained with AFSWC in order to schedule the GRB-36 equitably between the two Centers.
(2) Prior to release of the GRB-36 aircraft from the contractor's facility, the aircraft will be weighed with AFFTC personnel acting as witnesses.
(3) FTF will reduce all data obtained as a result of the AFFTC portion of the test.

f. Number of Contractor Personnel Involved: FTF will state its requirements for contractor technical representatives immediately. Requests will be submitted to FTM for action.

g. Facility Requirements: Facilities for ground loading or unloading the parasite RF-84F into the GRB-36 carrier will not be required. Such facilities, consisting of ramps and dollies, will be utilized as available at the contractors' facilities at Fort Worth, Texas and at Fairchild Air Force Base.

3. Supplementary Information: (Cont'd)

h. Maintenance: The aircraft will be maintained by FTN assisted by FTF in matters pertaining to armament, photography, instrumentation, and power plant (if required).

i. Instrumentation Requirements: The GRB-36 and the RF-84F aircraft will be instrumented at the AFFTC by FTF. The aircraft will be deinstrumented before being returned to the tactical inventory.

j. Space Positioning: None.

k. Photographic Coverage: FTFSF will furnish photographic coverage as required by the project engineer(s).

l. Armament Support: None.

m. Supply Status:
(1) Those items of supply which are common to the standard RB-36D and/or RF-84F airplanes will be obtained through the normal supply channels.
(2) Support and spare part items peculiar to the FICON modification of the GRB-36D and/or RF-84F will be governed by the provisions of Air Force Regulation 67-86. FTM will monitor the stock piling of these items.

n. Flying Hours:
(1) B-36 - Approximately thirty hours on Phase IV test and approximately thirty hours for AFSWC support.
(2) RF-84F - Approximately fifteen hours of flying time.

o. Fuel Requirements:
(1) B-36 - Approximately 150,000 gallons of 115/145 gasoline will be required.
(2) RF-84F - Approximately 15,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel will be required.

p. Clearance Information: Security clearances of all visiting military and civilian personnel participating in this test will be processed through FTOO.

q. Funds: All AFFTC expenditures incurred in the conduct and support of this test will be charged to Weapon System 114M.

r. Reports: During the course of the test program, FTF will prepare monthly progress reports and a final test report. Copies of all reports will be made available to Headquarters ARDC, Detachment #1, Attention: RDZ-1SBL and RDZ-1SFA and to Headquarters ARDC, Attention: RDTSI.

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3. Supplementary Information:

s. Aircraft Delivery Schedule: FTF will effect pick-up of both the bomber and the fighter aircraft at the Convair facility at Fort Worth upon notification by FTOOA. Upon completion of testing both aircraft will be returned to the tactical inventory. Disposition instructions will be issued at a later date.

t. References:
(1) ARDC Test Directive #5498-F1, dated 7 February 1955.
(2) ARDC Test Directive #5498-F2, dated 21 March 1955, amendment to Test Directive #5498-F1

u. Remarks: Within three days after completion of testing, FTF will send written notice of completion to FTOO. This notice will forecast the date that the final report will be ready for distribution. When the final report is sent to the responsible agency, the covering letter will state that the test is completed.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER:

Raymond P. Klein, Lt Col, USAF
for
BENTLEY H. HARRIS, JR.
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations

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