



THE JOINT STAFF

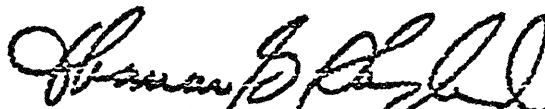
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

12 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Conversation between Colonel Ernest R. Harden  
(USAF Ret.) and Colonel Thomas G. Shepherd,  
OJCS/JRC, 11 August 1977

1. The undersigned discussed the origin of the Joint Reconnaissance Center with Colonel "Dick" Harden. COL Harden (then Captain, USAF) in company with GEN Twinning (CJCS) briefed President Eisenhower on the RB-47 program. This was due to the standdown of RB-47 missions after the 1 July 1960 RB-47 incident in the Barents Sea. They were proposing to the President to resume operations starting in the Baltic Sea. After the briefing, President Eisenhower told GEN Twinning words to the effect, Nate, I want you personally to keep a handle in this, you are responsible.
2. (U) After returning to the Pentagon, GEN Sherrill, Assistant to GEN Twinning, discussed with CAPT Harden how the President's direction could be accomplished. The Air Force was subsequently tasked to come up with a solution. Their solution recommended that the Air Force become the DOD executive agent. Navy strongly resisted this approach. Finally, J-2 wrote a paper establishing the JRC as part of J-3. The Secretary of Defense approved this concept on 24 October 1960.

  
THOMAS G. SHEPHERD  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Reconnaissance  
Programs Division, J-3

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DATE 12 July 1987

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