

COUNTY OF BEXAR
STATE OF TEXAS

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A F F I D A V I T

WILLIAM E. THORNTON, being duly sworn, deposes
and says:

1. I presently reside at 5131 Lancelot, San Antonio, Texas, and am a duly commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, Medical Corps, with the rank of Captain.

2. I am the William E. Thornton named as a co-inventor in application for Letters Patent of the United States from which Letters Patent No. 2,869,120 issued on January 13, 1959 to Del Mar Engineering Laboratories, as assignee.

3. I make this affidavit as a result of persistent rumors reaching me from personnel at Eglin Air Force Base that I was in "legal trouble", which rumors I have now determined result from a large number of letters from an agency of the Department of Defense directed to numerous Eglin Air Force Base personnel, seeking information relative to

(a) possible work undertaken or supervised by me during my tour of duty either as an officer or civilian consultant at Eglin Air Force Base relating to tow targets mounting one or more flares to serve as an infra-red source for I.R. air-to-air missile training programs, or

(b) knowledge possibly gained by me during my assignment to Eglin Air Force Base relating to unidentified "classified" informational material pertaining to alleged activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Department of Navy relating to the Navy "Dart" tow target.

4. From July, 1952 until October, 1954, I was a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, separating from active duty in the Air Force as a First Lieutenant on or about October 24, 1954. I was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base from July, 1952 until about December, 1952 and was during this time period assigned to 3200 Medium and Heavy Bombardment Squadron. From about December, 1952 until separation from active duty, I was assigned to 3206th Technical Services Laboratories as an engineering physicist and officer in charge of the Photo Optics Laboratory, with approximately three (3) months temporary duty to Landstuhl Air Force Base in Germany during the summer of 1953.

5. I served as a civilian physicist and consultant to Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin Air Force Base, from the time of my separation from active duty until about July 15, 1955, at which time I severed my employment with the United States Air Force.

6. The advent of I.R. air-to-air missiles produced a requirement for a suitable target having an infra-red source and I was aware of this requirement at some date not now known to me, but prior to April, 1956 when I became an employee of Del Mar Engineering Laboratories. I was interested in the

target program of the Air Force and it was obvious to me that the then current drone program could not be efficiently and effectively used to support or implement the requirement for a tow target useful in the Air Force' I.R. air-to-air missile program.

7. I can now state that I did, at a time not now known to me, but believed to be during the period of my employment as a civilian consultant to Air Proving Ground Command, consider the possibility of mounting a flare to the tail of a tow target to serve as an infra-red source in the Air Force' air-to-air missile target program. I believe I then prepared at least one sketch showing merely the concept of a flare mounted to the tail of a tow target. The sketch did not show or suggest how the flare could be mounted to the tail of the target, and in fact did not show as I now recall, the structure of the target per se. I had no means available to me of implementing the concept, although it was obvious that the concept would require a large amount of investigation to ascertain whether or not a target including a source of suitable infra-red energy could be successfully developed for use in the I.R. air-to-air missile training program of the Air Force.

8. With the exception of the one (1) sketch which I believe I made, I did not undertake, prior to my employment by Del Mar Engineering Laboratories, any investigation relating to the development of a tow target having a suitable source of infra-red energy for use in an I.R. air-to-air missile training program. Further, I had no knowledge of any development program authorized by any agency of the United States Government or pursued by any member or group of any agency of the United

States Government prior to my employment by Del Mar Engineering Laboratories, which related to the design and construction of a tow target having a flare or plurality of flares to afford a source of infra-red energy possible of use in the I.R. air-to-air missile program of any agency of the United States Government.

9. I can categorically state that no person at any time prior to my employment by Del Mar Engineering Laboratories, informed me that an agency of the United States Government or vendor of an agency of the United States Government had undertaken or was then undertaking any research and development in an effort to develop a tow target having a source of infra-red energy for use in the I.R. air-to-air missile program of any agency of the United States Government.

10. I can categorically state that I was neither informed of nor shown any information concerning or relating to any work undertaken by or on behalf of the Department of Navy concerning a target of any type to which was mounted a flare or flares to serve as a source of infra-red energy for infra-red seeking missiles, or for any other purpose.

11. I can further categorically state that I never saw, or was informed by another that he had seen, a Navy "Dart" target mounting flares as a source of infra-red energy for use in I.R. air-to-air missile program of any agency of the United States Government prior to my employment at Del Mar Engineering

Laboratories.

WILLIAM E. THORNTON

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above
named William E. Thornton on this _____ day of January,
1966.

Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission expires:
