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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS NORTHEAST AIR DEFENSE SECTOR (ANG)
ROME, NEW YORK**

18 Jun 97

MEMORANDUM FOR CV, DO, DOC, LG, SC

FROM: NE AD Sector/CVX
4 Otis Street
Rome, NY 13441-4712

SUBJECT: FERTILE SPADE 97-26

1. CVX conducted a FERTILE SPADE on 16 Jun 97.
2. Participants: NE SAOC and 177 FW
3. Scenario: A Lear 35 simulated an IL-62 which had been hijacked. The target was intercepted by two F-16s from 177 FW.
4. NE SAOC objectives:
 - a. Response to IG Team Arrival
 - b. SAOC Initial Response
 - c. SAOC Command and Control
 - d. SAOC Employment
5. Response to IG Team Arrival: Personnel from CVX acted as the NORAD IG team to allow sections to practice procedures in anticipation of a NORAD Alert Force Evaluation (AFE). The Security Police processed the team quickly and efficiently. The MCC on duty gave a thorough brief to the team and was knowledgeable in all Sector outages. All slides were accurate both in the computer version and hard copy.
6. SAOC Initial Response.
 - a. Track Detection and Identification: The track was detected quickly and the possibility of a deviation was immediately addressed. Sim New York Center passed to Huntress ID that the aircraft was simulating a Hijack squawk when the mode III code changed to 5475. This

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information was initially overlooked because the sections were focusing on the possibility of a DMA. During a Spade, the crews need to be careful not to "read into" the scenario but listen carefully to all the information that is passed. Once the squawk was recognized as a Hijack, the classification was changed to a Special 15.

b. Tactical Action: Aircraft at Atlantic City were scrambled and airborne within all established time limits. The SD directed the WD to conduct a cold stern and remain covert.

c. Use of Proper Authentication Procedures: All authentication procedures were correct. Some of the other crews have conducted a double-check between the SD and WD to ensure there were no errors.

7. SAOC Command and Control.

a. Coordination: Good aggressive flow of information from the DO down to the Ops floor. Information between sections and coordination with external agencies also went well.

b. Reporting Procedures: The Form 61 and OPREP-3 voice reports were both passed within the five minute criteria. The hard copy reports also went out within NORAD established time limits.

c. Security: COMSEC concern was obvious. However, the crew procedures did not comply with the DO policy letter on "Open Line" Procedures dated 11 Jun 97.

8. Employment.

a. Management and Direction: The information required for the 30 mile call was passed between 25-28 miles. Recommend starting this call earlier so the information is not late. TCAS was implemented appropriately and the fighters turned off just Mode 3/C, maintaining mode 2.

b. Intercept Phase: The weapons team conducted a stern but the initial heading did not ensure the fighters remained covert. The fighters changed their heading to remain undetected by the simulated Hijack. The Weapons Section kept the fighters abreast of the operational situation, briefing them on changes in the hijackers intentions to go to JFK and then Dulles. All altitude changes were efficiently coordinated with PTC until the fighters called Judy and took over the intercept.

c. Post Intercept Phase: The pilots maintained five miles in trail of the hijack and monitored the situation. The thought process for the scenario was continued to a logical conclusion. The MCC/T aggressively coordinated with SAR on availability of assets.

9. This report is intended to pass along observations to improve Sector performance in upcoming Alert Force Evaluations. Areas observed are those listed in NI 90-3. No grades were applied to performance, although the results were very positive. Recommendations

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are provided to help present a well-polished performance. This report is forwarded to directorates for further dissemination at their discretion.



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Director, Exercise and Analysis

cc: CC

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