

Statement of Kerry Wendell Thornley Dated September 28, 1967

Regarding the U-2 Airplane at Atsugi, Japan.

1. My name is Kerry Wendell Thornley. I testified before Mr. Jenner, on the staff of the Warren Commission. My published testimony appears in Volume Eleven of the Warren Commission's 26 volumes.

2. The famous "U-2 incident" occurred when I was stationed with MABS-11, which was then on maneuvers in the Philippines, from its "home" base at Atsugi, Japan.

3. While at Atsugi, before going on maneuvers, my fellow marines and I frequently observed what later turned out to be the U-2 taking off and landing at Atsugi. At the time I was there, this was referred to, among the noncoms, as the "blackbird" or "mystery plane", because it had no markings on it and was black in color. It also had a small body and large wingspan and seemed capable of great speeds and high altitudes.

4. It was kept in a hangar which, rumor had it, was guarded by civilians. At one time, when I was in the vicinity of this hangar, I was asked politely to leave the area by such a civilian. Most of us assumed, myself included, that this black airplane was some kind of experimental aircraft.

5. We did not realize its true function until the story broke in the newspapers and hence that information was declassified.

Kerry Wendell Thornley
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA SS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On September 28, 1967 before me, the undersigned,
personally appeared

KERRY WENDELL THORNLEY,

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the
within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same.

Signature

James G. Hadsell

JAMES G. HADSELL, Notary Public
My Commission Expires April 3, 1968

Name (Typed or Printed)



OFFICIAL SEAL
JAMES G. HADSELL
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Notary Public in and for said County and State