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SECURITY INFORMATION

J. M.

**HEADQUARTERS
2156TH AIR RESCUE SQUADRON (TT)
MOBILE Training Unit
McCall, Idaho**

12 March 1952

**SUBJECT: Justification for an Established School to train MATS Personnel
in Survival, Evasion and Escape at McCall, Idaho, to be known
as "MATS Survival School".**

**TO: Commander
Air Resupply and Communications Service
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.**

**THRU: 1. Commanding Officer
1300th Training Squadron, ARCS, MATS
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho**

**2. Commander
1350th Air Base Wing, ARCS, MATS
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho**

**1. Reference is made to Appendix A, "Historical Data Report,
1 August 1951 to 1 January 1952 and 1 January 1952 to 1 March 1952".**

**2. The background history of schools of this nature since 1942
has been one of poor training areas, made to fit existing conditions.
This resulted in a poorer type of training than could be accomplished
in a good area.**

**3. The McCall area with its three million acres of primitive
country adjacent is as good an area as could be found in the United
States and it is recommended that subject school be located at Thorn
Creek for the following reasons:**

**a. Three million acres of training area, U. S. Forest
Service control.**

**b. Cooperation between U. S. Forest Service and the Air
Force is outstanding.**

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c. Facility at Thorn Creek consisting of three (3) buildings, water system, plumbing, septic tanks, etc. has been made available for an indefinite period by U. S. Forest Service in addition to 80 acres of fenced land with access road for utilization as building area.

d. Survival, game and fish conditions which cannot be worn out due to size and type of area.

e. Paved highways through McCall and within one (1) mile of Thorn Creek.

f. Railhead with daily train service.

g. Airport, McCall. New 2700' runway utilized by Forest Service for DC-3's, Ford Trimotor and Travelair 6000's. Runway is being extended to 5280' this summer under CAA authority.

h. Nineteen (19) airstrips in primitive area which can be used for training in dropping and aerial pickup.

i. Fayette Lake is suitable for operation of amphibious aircraft up to and including SA-16.

j. Housing for permanent party families is available and most adequate.

k. Daily mail service.

l. Utilities and telephone facilities are adequate and service is excellent.

m. A local doctor (ex-Navy) and dentist are available for emergencies.

n. Cooperative agreement with Idaho Fish and Game Department has been undertaken and is working smoothly.

o. U. S. Forest Service have made available all static ground training devices for use of school in training of aircrews.

4. Summary.

a. On a cost economy basis the facilities and area made available by the U. S. Forest Service are considerable.

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- b. The U. S. Forest Service cooperation is outstanding.
- c. U. S. Forest Service continuing research in dropping cargo in isolated areas is of more than passing interest to ARCS.
- d. There is no doubt in the minds of all personnel connected with this school that when it is operating at Thorn Creek, the training presented will have no equal in this field and can be the prototype for schools of this type in other areas and commands.

A. INNES-TAYLOR
Lt Colonel USAF
Commanding

1 incl:

Mist. Data Report (Confidential)