MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MATERIEL)
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MATERIEL)

SUBJECT: Naming of Aircraft

1. Effective as of the date of this memorandum, each Military
   Department will be responsible for assigning popular names to its
   own aircraft. The authority of the Munitions Board Joint Aircraft
   Committee for assigning names to aircraft is hereby rescinded.

2. The Military Departments will observe the following precepts
   in naming aircraft:

   a. For purposes of brevity, names normally should consist
      of one word.

   b. Names will normally be assigned only to those types of
      aircraft which have reached the production stage or which have
      immediate prospects of so doing.

   c. The names shall not duplicate or permit confusion with
      names previously assigned to Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast
      Guard aircraft, or where readily ascertainable, with aircraft
      names in use by civil aviation or by foreign nations. The names,
      also, shall not duplicate names currently in use by the Military
      Departments for other types of materiel, such as tanks, etc.

   d. Names will not supplant numerical or letter designations
      assigned to aircraft by the military departments.

   e. Each basic model of aircraft will normally retain the
      name originally assigned, regardless of its subsequent manufacturer
      or operational use; and all aircraft of a series within a basic type
      will normally retain the one name assigned thereto, i.e., all series
      of F-86 will have the name "Sabre" and all series of the F7U will
      have the name "Cutlass."

   f. Manufacturers may, if they so request, have reserved
      for them exclusively a "family" of names for future models. For
      example, the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation now uses the
      "Cat" family, and the Douglas Aircraft Company uses the "Sky" family.
g. The selection of names should, in general, conform to
the characteristics of the aircraft as follows:

(1) Fighters: Names indicating speed, maneuverability,
fighting characteristics or aggressiveness.

(2) Bombers: Names indicating size, weight, power,
range or destructive characteristics.

(3) Patrol Types: Names employing seafaring terms.

(4) Transports: (Cargo and Personnel) Names implying
transportation, range or load-carrying ability.

(5) Trainers: Names employing tuition terms, educational
institutions or places of training, but
not names of military or naval establish-
ments.

(6) Reconnaissance: Names indicating keen vision,
careful surveillance.

(7) Miscellaneous: Names indicating the primary
operational functions of the aircraft.

3. The Department of the Air Force will maintain for reference
purposes a current complete listing of names previously assigned to
military aircraft and, insofar as practicable, the names of civil and
foreign aircraft.

4. Prior to assigning a name, each military department will check
this listing for duplication or confusion with previously assigned
names. In addition, the Department will check with the other two
Military Departments to assure that the proposed name does not duplicate
a name currently in use for other types of materiel. It is suggested
that the Military Department establish appropriate interdepartmental
channels for expeditiously making these checks.

5. Conflicts arising among the Military Departments with regard
to the naming of aircraft should be referred promptly to me for reso-
lution. It is requested that the Department proposing the name initiate
this action.

6. The file of aircraft names heretofore maintained by the Staff
of the Munitions Board Joint Aircraft Committee will be transferred to
the Department of the Air Force under separate cover.

/s/ C. S. THOMAS