

Institution in DC in 1939.

As a result of reviewing a number of NACA documents at the Truman and other Libraries, I also had noted that Twining had served on NACA and that the NACA was expanded in 1948 from 15 to 17 members with the two new members being Dr. Detlev Bronk, an aviation physiologist (listed as an MJ-12 member) and Dr. James H. Doolittle, one of the world's great flyers and also one of the first recipients of a PhD in Aeronautics (from MIT when Bush was a dean). Doolittle eventually became Chairman of NACA in 1956, was chairman of the AFSAG and was involved in a host of very classified intelligence-related activities throughout the postwar era including chairing a committee which evaluated the CIA for President Eisenhower, organizing super-secret Operation Solarium in 1953.

Once the MJ-12 member listing was received, other links fell in place. Jerome Hunsaker of MIT had succeeded Bush as NACA chairman. Vandenberg had served on NACA. Bronk became vice chairman of NACA and had headed an OSRD Biology Committee under Bush.

The reader by now will not be surprised that Twining was an early target of my research. He was actually alive when I started my quest, but according to his wife, one of his sons, and his former pilot, he was suffering with Alzheimer's disease. I did find out that his papers had been donated to the Library of Congress Manuscript Division and managed to get approval from his son to view the papers. Unfortunately, the great bulk were still classified. I put in requests for classification review of a number of boxes based upon the Finders Aid which covered about 40,000 pages. It was in one of these folders that a couple of discoveries were made in a folder labelled "Eyes Only." These were two memos from Cutler, noted earlier relating to Operation Solarium. In Twining's correspondence files there were also materials of interest. He had planned a visit to Boeing in Seattle for July 16, 1947 both to review the new B-50 bomber and to do some fishing with old friends, which was an important recreational activity to Twining. The trip to the West Coast had clearly been planned for a long time (solidly planned by June 2) but was suddenly cancelled. Earl Schaefer, Vice President of Boeing-Wichita (Kansas) had written on 10 July, 1947, asking Twining to stop by to see the prototype XL-15 liaison plane on his way to the West Coast. In his response to Earl of 17 July, 1947, Twining said "with deepest regrets we had to cancel our trip to the Boeing factory due to a very important and sudden matter that developed here.... I have been away quite a bit the last couple of weeks so have not had a chance to..." (Emphasis added) (See Appendix B).

Newspaper articles quoting Twining about flying saucers clearly established that he was in New Mexico around July 9. This strongly suggested that the travelling referred to in the letter and "the very important and sudden matter" were connected with New Mexico. Several years later one of Twining's children gave me the name of his pilot whom I managed to locate and eventually meet in person and to copy many pages of his pilot log book. There was a