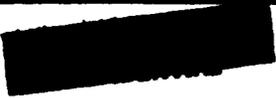


ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.



FEB 15 22 55 '56

00-071 of

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)
COMDE WESTERN DEV DIV INGLEWOOD CALIF

DATE-TIME GROUP 2 15 0800	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
PRECEDENCE FOR ACTION Priority	INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> BOOK MESSAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT FOR PHYSICAL REFERENCE TO GROUP	CRYPTOPRECAUTION <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
NO UNCLASSIFIED REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION	IF DATE-TIME GROUP IS QUOTED.

TO:
COMDE ARDC BALTIMORE MD

INFO: DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

FROM: WDFP-2-5-2 FOR: MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SESSUMS

THE APPLICATION OF HIGH PERFORMANCE SOLID ROCKETS TO AF VEHICLES HAS BEEN LIMITED BY DEFICIENCIES APPARENT IN CURRENT SOLID ROCKET UNITS. POTENTIAL GAINS ATTAINABLE THROUGH APPLICATION OF IMPROVED SOLID ROCKETS ARE, HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT. AS COMPARED TO LIQUIDS, THEY OFFER INSTANT TACTICAL AVAILABILITY, THE POSSIBILITY OF LONG PERIODS OF INERT STORAGE WITH NO MAINTENANCE, GREATLY REDUCED REQUIREMENTS WITH REGARD TO COMPLEXITY OF LAUNCHING BASE OPERATIONS, AND GREATLY SIMPLIFIED LOGISTIC NEEDS. SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT APPLICATIONS FOR SOLID ROCKETS IN FIELDS OF AF INTEREST EXIST, INCLUDING MAIN POWER PLANT FOR IRBM, BOOSTER FOR NUCLEAR ROCKET ORBITING SATELLITE, MAIN POWER PLANT OR BOOST FOR ICBM, AND BOOST ROCKET FOR LOW ALTITUDE NUCLEAR RECONNAISSANCE RAM JET. ALTHOUGH IN EACH OF THESE INSTANCES EMPLOYMENT OF A SOLID ROCKET OF AN ADVANCED TYPE INDICATES MANY POINTS OF SUPERIORITY OVER THE EQUIVALENT LIQUID, TIME SCALES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE UNITS ARE VERY MATERIALLY GREATER THAN THOSE REQUIRED FOR LIQUID ROCKET PROGRAMS. THIS CONDITION STEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE FACT THAT LITTLE FUNDAMENTAL WORK HAS BEEN PURSUED

WDI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From Cal & de —

19 Feb 1956

WS 117L major objectives for
first half of 1957

1. Preliminary operational concept
2. Define Lockheed contract
3. Establish test facilities, nets and programming.
4. { Demonstration of air ~~time~~ some
coupler & in experimental models
— bread board — configuration.