

[REDACTED]

EFFECTS OF SPUTNIK ON WS 117L

1. Rapid change and program acceleration plans.
 2. Thor-boosted program established for engineering studies (Feb 1958).
 3. President (3 Feb 1958) directed priority equal with ballistic missiles. Importance and urgency recognized.
 4. Program direction transferred to ARPA (May 1958).
- [REDACTED]

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DISCOVERER - POST SPUTNIK

1. After Sputnik - need to regain lost time. Funding and booster availability problems.
2. RAND study; Thor-boosted Agena; recoverable capsule (Nov 57).
3. ARPA approved Thor-boosted approach to obtain early flights of Agena (28 Feb 58).
4. OSD approved Thor-boosted (March 1958).

Purpose:

- a. Scientific data gathering
 - b. Achievement of orbital capability
 - c. Development of techniques and procedures: i.e., stabilization, recovery from orbit.
 - d. Advanced engineering tests
 - e. Biomedical and other data
- [REDACTED]

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ARPA PERIOD OF MANAGEMENT
19 May 1958 - 17 Nov 1959

1. Programs split to Sentry, Midas, Discoverer.
2. Constant requirements for new development plans.
3. *Make funds fit*
~~Constant requirements for new development plans.~~
4. ARPA "project engineering."

Period characterized by instability, indecision, rapid changes in objectives and funding.

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WS 117L: PRE-SPUTNIK

*Done for
Col. Conrad
SSD
15 Aug 66
File 117L
Sams*

1946-1951 Rand studies on earth circling satellites.

1947 Satellite technical feasibility established.

1948 - 1954 Continued Air Force/Rand studies.

1953 ARDC established R & D program office at WADC. Design studies performed in-house.

1954 Final Rand Feedback report. General features of Reconnaissance Satellite established.

March 1955 Air Force issued GOR-80. WS 117L Strategic Reconnaissance Satellite. ARDC let design studies with industry: RCA, GIM, LAC.

February 1956 WS 117L program transferred to AFEMD.

March 1956 Air Force Selection Board evaluated contractor design studies. LAC best qualified. Their studies continued.

April 1956 Development plans prepared, issued. Funding meager. Eventually 13.9 M - FY 1957..

October 1956 WS 117L prime contract awarded LAC.

Secretary Quarles' instructions, March 1957:

1. Slow down. -
2. No orbital testing prior to January 1960 -
3. Conduct development along conventional lines -

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS. AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. JOB DIR 5200.1Q

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