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MISSION STATEMENT
6594th TEST WING

29 Dec 60

1. Policy

a. The United States Air Force will actively direct all field test operations of the SAMOS, MIDAS, and DISCOVERER Satellite Systems, utilizing military, civil service, or civilian contractor personnel as necessary.

b. The United States Air Force will develop, as a matter of priority, the capability to operate and support, with military personnel, selected elements of satellite systems. Those elements to be manned and operated by military personnel will be selected on the criteria of most economically and effectively achieving United States Air Force missions and tasks. Where contractor operation or support is more economical and effective, it will be used.

2. Mission

In accordance with the above policy, the 6594th Test Wing is directed to:

a. Supervise, direct, and conduct, under the operational control of the appropriate Air Force Program Office, the on-orbit testing operations of the SAMOS, MIDAS, and DISCOVERER satellites and the recovery operations on these satellites when applicable.

b. Evaluate the on-orbit and recovery operations and provide an evaluation report, including recommendations for changes to equipment design, procedures, locations, supporting forces requirements and facilities, to the appropriate Air Force Program Office.

c. Support the launch base test wing with tracking and telemetry reception services as required for satellite checkout, pre-launch countdown, and launch-to-injection operations.

d. At the earliest practical time, develop the capability to man and operate, with military personnel, the command, control, engineering data processing and computing facilities associated with the Satellite Test Annex at Sunnyvale, California.

e. At the earliest practical time man, operate and support the following tracking and acquisition stations with military personnel:

- (1) Vandenberg Air Force Base, California
- (2) New Boston, New Hampshire
- (3) Kaena Point, Hawaii
- (4) Donnelly Flats, Alaska
- (5) Other stations as may be designated

- f. Prepare to conduct air recovery of satellite payloads in the Nevada area.

Command

- a. The 6594th Test Wing is assigned to the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division for command and administration.
- b. During operation of SAMOS vehicles, the 6594th Test Wing will be under the operational control of the Director, SAMOS Project for on-orbit operations, recovery operations, security, distribution of take.
- c. The mission and responsibilities stated herein in no way abrogate the responsibility or authority of Air Force Ballistic Missile Division program directors with respect to test activities pertinent to their programs.

Specific Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Command, administer and provide necessary support to all assigned units.
- b. Participate in, and support, space and satellite system development programs to the extent specified in Air Force Ballistic Missile Division test directives.
- c. Participate and assist in Air Force Ballistic Missile Division/Contractor test operations to acquire a thorough knowledge of satellite system components, subsystems, and systems technical performance characteristics and capabilities, procedures and techniques to evaluate their application to the ultimate military configuration of the systems.
- d. Determine, during pre-launch countdown operations, the readiness of the tracking system, the Satellite Test Annex and supporting forces for the operation and, based upon this determination, transmit to the launch base a clearance to launch, or direct a hold when these facilities do not meet established criteria.
- e. Participate and assist Air Force Ballistic Missile Division in the establishment and implementation of personnel subsystem test and evaluation programs for satellite and space systems.
- f. Review, identify and recommend to Air Force Ballistic Missile Division requirements necessary to support continued and follow-on space system developmental test programs.
- g. Participate and assist Air Force Ballistic Missile Division as required in the review of design criteria for equipments, facilities and installations to ensure compliance with established requirements and concepts of operation.
- h. Achieve a Wing capability to operate and maintain assigned systems with military personnel performing the tracking, data acquisition, data processing, data reduction and recovery, where appropriate, of orbital space vehicles in accordance with the approved program schedules.

i. Supervise on-site training programs as specified in appropriate Air Force Ballistic Missile Division directives.

j. Prepare, maintain, and submit to Air Force Ballistic Missile Division a Wing Plan and time-phased program reflecting proposed progressive development of the Wing capabilities to meet the mission requirements.

O. J. Ritland
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MAJOR GENERAL, USAF
COMMANDER

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