

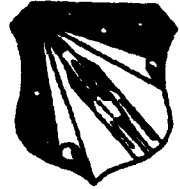
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**HEADQUARTERS
AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND**

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF
THE COMMANDER

15 September 1959



C/S has noted

**General Thomas D. White
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.**

Dear General White:

I am deeply concerned over the events which are besetting the SAMOS Program. These events have jeopardized the Air Force objective to achieve the capability of performing satellite reconnaissance in the visual and ferret areas in satisfaction of stated national intelligence requirements.

Of major concern to me are the problem areas that follow:

a. ARPA directed in June of this year a deferment of the recoverable capsule planned for the SAMOS Program and withdrew all FY '60 program support for this portion of the system. On 4 September ARPA authorized us to proceed on an extremely limited basis with certain long lead time items, but as yet have not clarified the funding status. Instead, we are required to again reexamine this portion and provide a detailed technical and funding breakdown item by item against projected monthly expenditure rates. The Air Force has reacted to ARPA's action by indecision and has not capitalized on the opportunity to place this vital element of the program under firm Air Force control. In this particular case I strongly reaffirm the facts and recommendations made to you in my letter of 1 August 1959, and again emphatically urge immediate positive Air Force support of the program.

b. ARPA funding support of the SAMOS R&D program has been marked by changing decision where we are forced into a day-to-day type planning for conduct of the program. Establishment of a logical plan and execution of that plan in terms of procurement, scheduling, production, test and operation of SAMOS has been rendered essentially impossible. I discussed this matter also in my letter to you of 1 August.

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I recognize the deleterious effect the changing ARPA fiscal plans have on the Air Force R&D program. The currently recognized and accepted definition of funding responsibilities of ARPA and the Air Force make it appropriate that the Air Force fund and support the operational aspect of SAMOS. Funding authorization from the Air Force is required immediately to permit initiation of procurement actions necessary in the planned operational program if we are to retain October 1961 as the date we are to realize operational capability. To date, I have not received official notification of an Air Force decision regarding the extent of funding support planned for either the R&D or operational programs of SAMOS.

c. A state of indecision exists within the Air Force as to the planned availability of the Vandenberg Launch Complex 65-1 for use in the operating portion of the SAMOS Program. Although this has been a much discussed point by members of both the Air Weapons Board and the Air Council, the Hq USAF message AFOOP-R RS74806 to Hq SAC stating that Launch Complex 65-1 will not be made available to the SAMOS Program is the latest official position of which I have knowledge. Considerable augmentation of both FY '60 and FY '61 Air Force fund requirements for the operational SAMOS Program is needed immediately if SAMOS is deprived the use of 65-1.

d. There is growing concern that the problems associated with construction and use of the PMR - Point Arguello complex for the SAMOS R&D launches are increasing and threaten to slip the planned SAMOS launch schedule. Definitization of inter-service roles and responsibilities at Pt. Arguello for SAMOS will be required, particularly when it is becoming clear that operational launches should also be considered at that site.

In view of the national importance of the SAMOS Program and the grave impact delayed decisions can have on the Air Force capability to satisfy national intelligence requirements, I strongly urge that a firm Air Force position be established regarding the SAMOS Program, that funding actions be taken to permit implementation of the program activities required in support of that position, and that action be taken at the highest levels to resolve the AF/Navy positions regarding the Pt. Arguello problem.



B. A. SCHRIEVER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

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