

SPECIAL HANDLINGSAMOS

The Under Secretary of the Air Force has been delegated responsibility for the SAMOS project. The SAMOS project consists of both overt and covert programs. The overt projects are numbered, the covert projects are given code word names.

The Secretary has established a field extension of his office located with the Air Force Space Systems Division at El Segundo, California, under the Director of Special Projects. The Director of Special Projects also serves, as additional duty, as Vice Commander, Air Force Space Systems Division, AFSC. He also has a small special staff in the Pentagon under the Director, Office of Missile and Satellite Systems. Other project staffing and support is provided by the Air Force Systems Command.

The programs and their purposes are as follows:

I. OVERT

- a. Program 101 B - Atlas/Agna vehicle with E-5 photographic payload.
- b. Program 102 - Thor/Agna vehicle with digital and analogue ferret payloads.
- c. Program 201 - Atlas/Agna with E-6 photographic payload.
- d. Program 202 - Design study of maneuverable re-entry vehicle.

II. COVERT

- a. GAMBIT - Atlas/Agna with high acuity photographic payload.
- b. EARDROP - Piggyback ferret payloads on several types of satellites.
- c. XENON - Initial chemical processing of recovered film.

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SAMOS (continued)

Technical Management

Technical management of all SAMOS programs is the responsibility of the Under Secretary with delegation to the Director of Special Projects and to the program directors.

The contractor structure varies with each program:

101 B - Lockheed is the prime contractor and does the SETD. Ittek builds the payload as a subcontractor.

102 - Lockheed is the prime contractor and does the SETD. Airborne Instrument Laboratories builds the payloads as a subcontractor.

201 - General Electric, Eastman Kodak, and Lockheed are associate contractors for the payload vehicle, the payload, and the orbiting vehicle respectively. Aerospace Corporation does the SETD.

202 - Martin is the design contractor. Aerospace does the SETD.

GAMBIT - The overt aspects of this operation previously have been covered by 201. However, a new cover project is being established which will show a program office structure in the Space Systems Division. This program will overtly report to the Director under his additional duty as Vice Commander, Air Force Space Systems Division, AFSC. The contract structure is the same as 201.

EARDROP - Prime contracts are let to the organizations who build the black boxes.

XENON - There is a prime contract to Eastman Kodak for processing.

Financial Management

The financial management of the project is by the Under Secretary. He has an individual in the Headquarters USAF, Directorate of Budget, to assist him. Overt contracting is handled by AF SSD. Covert contracting is done directly by the Director of Special Projects under a special delegation of authority. Covert administrative contracting officers are stationed with the major covert contractors.

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SAMOS (continued)

Operational Management

The operational target programming function is done at the Satellite Test Center based on COMAR target priority lists. All operational and engineering decisions are made by the Director of Special Projects or his delegate.

Security

The security of the overt projects is handled in accordance with DOD and Air Force security procedures with determination of need-to-know reserved to the Under Secretary. This has resulted in an extremely tight security system for the project. Covert security is handled within the project with code word security procedures and clearance standards higher than TOP SECRET standards.

The major portion of all project communications are on a private TWX system. Normal Air Force and other channels are used infrequently and only when absolutely necessary to pass information to other agencies on overt projects. All covert communications are handled by a small group within the project.

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EARDROP

I. History

EARDROP is a series of small packages to be used covertly on a space available basis in other programs, with approval by the Secretary of Defense, and with funding provided by the Air Force under the SAMOS project. These have been launched at various times since August 1960, as part of a coordinated program to obtain critical information.

II. Funding

Funding is by the Air Force as a part of the SAMOS project. (\$2.5 M, FY 62; \$2.7 M, FY 63).

III. Management

Technical management of EARDROP is the responsibility of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, with delegation to the Director of Special Projects, who manages it through his SAMOS Program 102 project office.

The intelligence community participates through specifically designated working level individuals from NSA, CIA, and Intelligence activities of each Service. These persons (called the "Termites") are not organized into a named group, but contact or are contacted by the Project Director on a continuing daily working basis. They have the primary function of suggesting the kinds of signal collection which would be useful to the community, and are consulted concerning black box proposals which appear feasible within the constraints of the program. The formulation of the program, and the conduct of all orbital operations is the responsibility of the Project Director. Arrangements for processing of the collected materials is effected through the appropriate termites.

IV. Security

EARDROP is a covert project, with need-to-know approval reserved to the Under Secretary of the Air Force, and the Director of Special Projects.

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SPECIAL HANDLINGCANESI. History

The establishment of this project resulted from efforts of the Service Cryptologic Agencies, NSA, CIA, ONI and NRL. The Navy developed a small package, Grab I, with approval of the Secretary of Defense, and with funding provided by ARPA. This was launched on 22 June 1960. On 25 August 1960, Secretary of the Navy requested and secured Secretary of Defense approval for a follow-up program for two more satellites in FY 61. These are 29 June 1961 and 12 December 1961 launch.

II. Funding

Funding through FY 62 (\$6.5 M) has been from ARPA to the Navy, with DOD approving emergency funds for FY 63 (\$9.5 M).

III. Management

Technical management is the responsibility of the Navy. The project director is the Director of Naval Intelligence, Adm. Lowrance.

To assist the project director, a Tech Operations Group (TOG) has been established, composed of representatives from NRL, ONI, Navy Security Group, and NSA.

The TOG has two primary functions:

- a. Makes recommendations for incorporation of technical ideas into basic design concepts of the satellite.
- b. Is responsible for operational control of the satellite after launch, directing the mission tasking, and reviewing the data retrieval procedures used. In addition, the TOG assists with processing methods, prepares and disseminates reports.

IV. Security

Need-to-know approval vested with Project Director, Admiral Lowrance. Top Secret, limited distribution, applies, with code word certificates employed.

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