

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

JUL 20 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Development of Space Systems

References: (a) Memorandum (Conf) from Secretary of Defense to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, subject: Satellite and Space Vehicles Operations, September 18, 1959

(b) DOD Directive 5160.32, dated 6 March 1961, subject: Development of Space Systems

It has come to my attention that various interpretations are being placed upon reference (b) with regard to the portions of reference (a) which remain in effect.

To clarify any misinterpretations or misunderstandings with regard to those space development programs which were approved prior to the publication of reference (b), the following portions of reference (a) are still applicable to those programs:

"The responsibility for the development, production and launching of space boosters and the necessary systems integration incident thereto, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, will be assigned to the Department of the Air Force except for such research and development as may be conducted by ARPA.

"The specific assignment of the payload for space and satellite systems will be assigned separately to the appropriate military department which, in addition to budgeting for the payload, will also budget and reimburse the Department of the Air Force for the necessary boosters, launching vehicles and other unique equipment required in launching and necessary systems integration.

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"The following specific assignments for payload development and payload research and development support and production improvement are approved:

- (a) Interim satellite early warning system --Air Force.
- (b) Phase I of satellite reconnaissance system --Air Force.
- (c) Interim satellite navigation system --Navy.
- (d) Interim satellite communications system --Army."

I recognize that the development and production of space boosters for DOD programs, may not be, in some instances, the responsibility of the DOD and that procurement of such boosters from the NASA is necessary and desirable. These cases will be considered on an individual basis and pertinent decisions will be made by the DDR&E or my office, as appropriate. However, such special cases do not alter the assignment of responsibility for the launching and systems integration incident thereto.

There are no space systems approved for operational use at this time. Prior to implementation of support for operational space systems, a detailed operational plan, including proposed alignments of responsibilities, will be forwarded to my office for review and approval.

Lowell E. ...

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