



March 6, 1961
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Department of Defense Directive

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) Memorandum from Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency to Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of the Air Force, subject: Study Contracts for Projects Assigned to the Advanced Research Projects Agency, September 14, 1959
 - (c) Memorandum (Conf) from Director of Defense Research and Engineering to the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, subject: ARPA Programs, June 11, 1959

I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policies and assigns responsibilities for research, development; test, and engineering of satellites, anti-satellites, space probes and supporting systems therefor, for all components of the Department of Defense.

II. POLICY AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each military department and Department of Defense agency is authorized to conduct preliminary research to develop new ways of using space technology to

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perform its assigned function. The scope of such research shall be defined by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering in terms of expenditure limitations and other appropriate conditions.

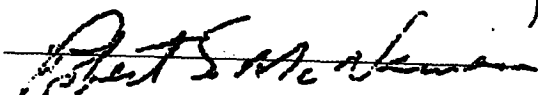
- B. Proposals for research and development of space programs and projects beyond the defined preliminary research stage shall be submitted to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering for review and determination as to whether such proposals, when transmitted to the Secretary of Defense, will be recommended for approval. Any such proposal will become a Department of Defense space development program or project only upon specific approval by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense.
- C. Research, development, test, and engineering of Department of Defense space development programs or projects, which are approved hereafter, will be the responsibility of the Department of the Air Force.
- D. Exceptions to paragraph C will be made by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense only in unusual circumstances.
- E. The Director of Defense Research and Engineering will maintain a current summary of approved Department of Defense space development programs and projects.

III. CANCELLATION

Reference (a), except as to the assignments of specific projects made therein, and references (b) and (c) are hereby cancelled.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This directive is effective upon publication. Instructions implementing this directive will be issued within thirty (30) days.


Secretary of Defense