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REF ID: A66666

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MAJOR DISCOVERY PROGRAMMING ACTIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
9 October 1957	Following Sputnik, in answer to HQ USAF request as to efforts and resources required to accelerate the IC and ICBM, an estimate was made for WS 117L. AFMSD pointed out that a large amount of funds would be needed to regain lost time due to fund strictures and lack of firm program approval. With \$99.2M FY 58 and \$121.7M FY 59 funds program could be advanced 6 months to one year if priority is given effort.	TRK from AFMSD to CGPS USAF dtd 9 Oct 57
6 January 1958	LMSD submitted a program acceleration plan for WML17 (LMSD-2632) as requested by RMD in Nov 57. Based on THOR-boosted early flight with a recoverable capsule as proposed by RAND. Flights to begin in late 1958. Increase manufacture of LMSD vehicles. ATLAS-boosted flights to begin in early 1959. General Schriever approved in principle, subject to review of special areas.	LMSD-2632 Memo for Record, subj: Establishment of THOR-boosted Phase of WML17L dtd 31 Jan 58 by Col Odeur
22 January 1958	Program acceleration plan submitted. Plan included a photographic reconnaissance configuration of a THOR-boosted recoverable reconnaissance package.	Management Report #8 (Amend to System Development Plan) WS 117L
3 February 1958	President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed that highest and equal national priority be given to ballistic missiles, satellites and defense programs. (ICBM, ICBM, WML17L, WMR24A)	TRK from HEDUSA to Comdr ARDC, AFMPP-WS-1 55565
24 February 1958	Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy approved in principle the proposed acceleration of WML17L to be conducted under direction of ARPA. RMD to submit a development plan.	Memo for SAF, subj: Air Force WML17L Program (Reconnaissance System) Sec of Def, 24 Feb 58
28 February 1958	Mr. Roy Johnson, ARPA, in memo to the Sec/AF concluded that: a. ATLAS/WML17L Project should be accelerated and given highest national priority in order to attain IOC at earliest date. b. THOR-boosted interim reconnaissance system with light weight recoverable capsule was a duplication of "a". <u>Do not pursue.</u> c. To attain early flights of Lockheed second stage, AF may find it desirable to use THOR-boosted test firings. THOR-boosted cheaper and available sooner than ATLAS, also can be used with second stage Lockheed vehicle for experimental recovery flights with animals.	Memo for SAF, subj: Reconnaissance Satellites and Manned Space Exploration, Office of Sec of Def, dtd 28 Feb 59, /s/Roy L. Johnson, Dir, ARPA

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March 1958	Activity in interim visual reconnaissance program (IIA) terminated in accordance with Mr. Johnson's message of 26 February.	
4 March 1958	OSD approved acceleration of WS 117L to include launching satellite test vehicles based on THOR booster.	Minutes of 16th meeting of AF Ballistic Missile Committee, 14 Mar 58, AFOSM Cont #501249
12 March 1958	Lockheed notified that Hq USAF had disapproved the WS 117L recoverable reconnaissance payload program. (WS 117L Program IIA). LMSD notified to reorient THOR-booster WS 117L Program for acceleration using THOR-boosted flights for early WS 117L tests -- orbital flights for exercise of ground-space communication network, concept for recoverable capsule, for aeromedical research flights.	TAC, WEHR 3-18-E fr. Comdr, AFOSM to LMSD, 12 Mar 58
19 May 1958	Cognizance over WS 117L assigned to ANPA.	Incl. 2 of Sec of Def Directive No. 3200.5 dtd 19 May 58
30 June 1958	ANPA Order 9-58 issued. Announced Sec Def had approved the assumption of responsibility for the Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L) by ANPA. HED to continue the project: to submit a detailed development and financial plan to ANPA \$22.7M made available initially.	ANPA Order 9-58, 30 June 1958
1 July 1958	<u>AFOSM Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L)</u> "New Horizon" Development Plan published. Funding program FY 58, \$60M; FY 59, \$215M, later revised to FY 58, \$67M; FY 59, \$198M. Plan contained both THOR-boosted version for component test and demonstration of orbital capability, and ATLAS-boosted reconnaissance program.	New Horizon Development Plan, 1 July 58
July 1958	Initial arrangements made by HED to organize a unit ARDC General Order 38 capable of aerial recovery WS 117L capsules. 9/ C119J aircraft to be used. "Aerial Snatch" called <u>Project Hot Hand</u> . Aircraft to come from TAC, 6993d Test Squadron (Special) activated by ARDC GO 38, effective 1 Aug 58. Unit to be based at Hickam AFB.	
20 July 1958	Director ANPA, informed Sec Air Force \$215M was programmed for WS 117L in FY 59. \$30.7M available to HED. Balance subject to Congressional action, RCB apportionment. Total included bio-medical project. HED informally requested to	Memo for Sec of Def subj: ANPA Fiscal Year 1958-1959 budget, dtd 11 July 1958

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submit a new development and funding plan within these limitations, and to indicate how they would use more money if additional funds are available.

22 July 1958

ARDC GO 38 designated and organized 6793d Test Squadron (Special). (In place at AFFTC for training, Aug-Dec 58, then to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.) Squadron assigned to Det #2, ARDC, AFMAD, for administrative and operational control.

ARDC GO 38

6 August 1958

Procurement of long lead time items authorized. THOR-WS 117L vehicle procurement increased an additional 9 over the 10 authorized to a total of 19. Intent to utilize these for bio-medical and other measurements of space phenomena. Prepare new development plan based on \$21.5M FY 59 ANPA Program.

TRK Fr Hq USAF to
COMARDC AFPM 54161
dtd 6 Aug 58

15 Sep 1958

AFMAD published Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L) Development Plan. Covered both THOR and ATLAS-boosted phases of program. Funding program, FY 59, \$21.5M; FY 60, \$29.6M. Plan is profusely illustrated and explanatory in detail.

ARDC(WS 117L) Develop-
ment Plan, 15 Sep 58

25 Sep 1958

Director, ANPA informed HED he was not able to approve current SENTRY Development Plan. Reasons: FY 59 funding plan exceeds ceiling of \$21.5M; achievements of major program objectives have been substantially delayed in spite of proposed funding level increases; FY 60 budget is in excess of a considered realistic funding level. ANPA sending an Ad Hoc Project Group out to investigate, evaluate and recommend an ANPA SENTRY and follow-on program. (Casaro, Lind, Irvine, Trank)

Memo for Comdr, HED,
ARDC, fr. ANPA, subj:
ANPA Ad Hoc Gp on Pro-
ject SENTRY and Follow
on Program, dtd 25 Sep
58

25 Nov 1958

ARDC directed to eliminate two of the small private shots from the DISCOVERER test series. Two more, one small private shot are authorized. The two cancelled small private boosters are to be reassigned.

Ltr to Comdr ARDC from
ANPA, dtd 25 Nov 58
/s/ R.W. Johnson

4 December 1958

Mr. Roy W. Johnson, Director, ANPA, informed the Under Secretary of the Air Force that a program to develop a number of systems and techniques which will be employed in the operation of space vehicles had been inaugurated. This program, to be known as DISCOVERER, was to include THOR launchings associated with WS 117L plus other similar

Memo for SAF, subj: WS
117L Program, ANPA,
dtd 4 Dec 58; Memo
Rpt for Director ANPA
fr OED, dtd 1 Dec 58

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projects not operationally oriented. Separate out DISCOVERER-THOR costs from WS 117L Program (SENTRY). Prepare separate development plans and progress reports for each. Tentative reallocation of funds is: DISCOVERER, FY 59, [REDACTED] FY 60, [REDACTED] SENTRY, FY 59, \$10M, FY 60, \$100M. Secretary of Defense and ARPA agreed to assign IOC for SENTRY to ARDC "for the next several years and until final objectives are obtained". Tentative "centers" for the program will be operated by ARDC.

5 December 1958

Mr. Roy W. Johnson, Director, ARPA, informed Under Secretary of the Air Force that reorientations of the DISCOVERER and SENTRY Programs were proposed, and a study and review would be made. For this review, AF was to assure that [REDACTED] was available in FY 59 and [REDACTED] in FY 60. AFMSD should not exceed these resources. In areas where cancellations were contemplated, no procurements beyond those absolutely necessary should be made.

Memo for Under SAF,
subj: DISCOVERER-THOR
Project and SENTRY
Programs, ARPA, dated
5 Dec 58

December 1958

Mr. R. W. Johnson revised his 25 Nov 58 letter concerning biomedical payloads for DISCOVERER Program now to provide for one successful primary recovery, up to a total of 3 attempts should be planned, with 2 additional attempts, if necessary and desired to be in lieu of payloads in the series of 13 flight vehicles.

TRK fr OSD to Comdr
ARDC HW 951903 dated
7 Dec 58

15 December 1958

AFMSD briefed AF and ARPA on WS 117L reorientation in response to 4-5 December ARPA directives. BMD also submitted alternate program reorientation suggestions.

16 December 1958

ARPA Order 48-59 to Sec AF. Requested Sec AF to continue study, development, and launch operations originally associated with the THOR phase of SENTRY Program under ARPA Order 9-58, as an independent project identified as DISCOVERER-THOR project. Earlier costs will be transferred to the new project. Prepare a new financial plan by 15 Jan 1959.

ARPA Order 48-59

17 December 1958

Mr. R. W. Johnson, Director ARPA, reorients SENTRY Program. The reorientation included FY 59 funds of [REDACTED]. This figure, [REDACTED] included the 13 flight DISCOVERER program of Calendar Year 1959.

Memo for the Under SAF
subj: Reorientation of
SENTRY Program, ARPA,
dtd 17 Dec 58

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- Late December 1958 First THOR-boosted DISCOVERER on pad at Vandenberg AFB awaiting launch.
- 21 January 1959 First launch attempt of a THOR-DISCOVERER from Vandenberg AFB. Launch terminated at T-60 as a result of inadvertent firing of the allage rockets.
- 30 January 1959 Four new development plans published DISCOVERER, MIDAS, SENTRY and CARQUEL. Plans in accordance with ANPA reoriented program.
- 2-4 February 59 Hq USAF - ANDC and ANPA briefed on DISCOVERER, SENTRY and CARQUEL Development Plans. The proposed CARQUEL Program was removed from further consideration.
- 16 February 59 Amendment No. 1 to ANPA Order dtd 16 Feb, No. 48-59 approved, "in general" the DISCOVERER Program as presented to the ANPA on 4 Feb 59. The approval authorized a 13 vehicle program and made available \$104.3M for FY 59. Amend No. 1 to ANPA Order 48-59
- 17 February 59 ANPA Order 60-59 makes available \$1.1M to defray the cost of modification and operation of the downrange telemetry ship, Pvt Joe E. Mann, thru 30 Jan 59. The order announces that effective 1 Jul 59 operational and funding responsibility for the ship will be transferred to the Pacific Missile Range. ANPA Order 60-59
- 28 February 59 DISCOVERER I (163-1022) successfully launched.
- 24 March 1959 Amendment No. 2 to ANPA Order No. 48-59 approves the development and funding plan, dtd 30 Jan 59 for the DISCOVERER Program. The approval provides for a 13-vehicle program. Amend No. 2 to ANPA Order 48-59.
- 13 April 1959 DISCOVERER II (170-1018) successfully launched from VAFB at 1318Z hours. DISCOVERER II was successfully placed in orbit.

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FROM: (Agency transferring documents) Major Peitz SAKSEPERA		DOCUMENT	DATE 15 Jan 62	PACKAGE NUMBER	CONTROL NUMBER SAFSP-OA-58	SUSPENSE DATE
			CLASSIFICATION SECRET	FILE DESIGNATION 3-27-19		
TO: SAFSP-OA		INTERNAL ROUTING				
DATE DISPATCHED 15 January 1962			TO	DATE	TO	DATE
			1. File 15 Jan 62			
			2. SAFSPOT 9 Feb 62			
DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) (Indicate type (letter, indorsement, etc.) and the number of copies; subject, short title if classified; number of indorsements and inclosures, and any other identifying data. Changes in the description (additions, withdrawals, etc.) will be shown with the date and initials of individual making entry.)						
Report, 1 cy (unbound) 'Historical Chronology - Major DISCOVERER Programming Actions 9 Oct 57 - 13 Apr 1959 - 5 pages						
Received Uncontrolled 15 Jan 62						
SENDER WILL INDICATE IF RECEIPT IS REQUIRED: <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (If YES, recipient will FIRST DETACH TOP COPY, then complete, and return to sender.)						
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AF FORM 310 1008 EDITION OF THIS FORM WILL BE OBSOLETE IF THIS STOCK IS EXHAUSTED. DOCUMENT RECORD AND RECEIPT

GROUP 1 TO 3

17 February 59
 28 February 59
 24 March 1959
 13 April 1959

ARRA Order 60-29 makes available \$1.1M to delivery the cost of modification and operation of the advanced telemetry ship, for the E. I. Lang, this 27 Jan 59. The order announces that effective 1 Jul 59 operational and funding responsibility for the ship will be transferred to the Pacific Missile Range.

DISCOVERER I (10-1052) successfully launched.

Amendment No. 2 to ARRA Order No. 60-29 approves the development and funding plan for the DISCOVERER Program. The approval provides for a 13-vehicle program.

DISCOVERER II (10-1019) successfully launched from VAB at 1300 hours. DISCOVERER II was successfully placed in orbit.

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