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BACKGROUND - SAMOS

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General Operational Requirement No. 80 was revised on 26 September 1958, placing additional requirements upon the Weapon System. Two (2) significant additions included in the revised GOR 80 were the requirements for a recoverable satellite for intelligence use and a mapping and charting addendum to the GOR.

On 1 December 1958 the ARPA proposed, in a memorandum report, a re-orientation of the WS 117L program. This proposal was directed to The Under Secretary of the Air Force in a memorandum on 5 December 1958. The reorientation was generated as the result of the ARPA being provided with the consolidated SAMOS intelligence requirements by the Air Force. (ACS/I).

As the result of the reorientation directives of early December, AFEMD presented a briefing to the ARPA on 15 December which included an analysis of the ARPA proposed program and an AFEMD counter proposal. The results of the briefing and subsequent negotiations culminated in an ARPA memorandum to The Under Secretary of the Air Force, dated 17 December 1958. The 30 January 1959 Development Plan reflected the instructions of the 17 December 1958 memorandum with regard to program structure and technical objectives. Further, the 30 January plan provided for the development of a SAMOS Reconnaissance System which possessed the capability to satisfy the SAMOS intelligence requirements.

By Amendment No. 11 to ARPA Order No. 9-58, dated 14 April 1959, the ARPA announced qualified approval of the 30 January 1959 SAMOS Development and Funding Plan.

On 27 April 1959 the ARPA was briefed at AFEMD on the analysis and planning for new work for the SAMOS reoriented program. In late May 1959, AFEMD was notified by Headquarters ARDC (TWX RDZGW 26-5-43-E, dated 26 May 1959) that the ARPA approval of the 30 January SAMOS Development Plan did not include approval of the SAMOS recoverable mapping payload. In compliance with this directive instructions were issued to the contractor to terminate all work related to the development of a SAMOS mapping capability.

In late June, instructions were received from the ARPA (TWX 961412, dated 24 June 1959) to defer work on the SAMOS recovery program pending an ARPA program review. The reason for the deferral by the ARPA was fund limitations due to the demands of other programs. This deferral action by the ARPA will possibly delay the SAMOS system capability needed to satisfy the vital intelligence requirements of the Air Force.

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On 4 September 1959 ARPA directed that AFBMD proceed with contract negotiations that deferred the recovery costs but protected certain long lead time items, such as the E-5 camera, under a fund ceiling of \$143.7 million.

On 9 September 1959 ARPA directed that AFBMD negotiate a program containing the High Resolution Recovery package and instructed that AFBMD was to reduce the readout programs as necessary to accomplish this goal. A new funding authorization of \$148 million dollars for FY 60 and a planning level [REDACTED]

In a memorandum to the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, subject: Coordination of Satellite and Space Vehicle Operations; dated 18 September 1959 the Secretary of Defense approved specific assignments to the Air Force of the interim satellite early warning system, MIDAS, and Phase I of the satellite reconnaissance system, SAMOS. The date of transfer of these systems from the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to the Air Force would be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary announced that prior to assuming responsibility for a specific program, the appropriate military department would submit to the Secretary for approval detailed plans for the system including our relationship with Unified and Specified Commands and other appropriate agencies.

On 23 October 1959, General LeMay in a letter to General Schriever concerning SAMOS and MIDAS, advised General Schriever that the ARPA funding level for SAMOS would be \$159.5 million dollars in FY 60. [REDACTED]

In compliance with the instructions of the Secretary of Defense on 18 September 1959, Hq USAF (AFDAT) issued instructions and guidance on 21 October 1959 which included the preparation of the necessary plans by appropriate commands for the transfer of SAMOS to the Air Force. The required plans and responsible commands were: Research and Development Plan, ARDC; Operational Plan, SAC; and Logistic Support Plan, AMC. The time scale for submission of these plans to Hq USAF was 23 November 1959, and reaffirmed the ARPA SAMOS funding ceiling for the R&D program as follows: FY 60, \$159.5 million dollars; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Air Force funds to be divided between SAMOS and MIDAS.

A reclamation on the effect of the above funding ceilings on the SAMOS development and operational programs was made by AFBMD on 17 November 1959. In this reclamation AFBMD requested permission to present the development plans then in preparation which were the result of an extensive planning effort based on all planning guidance except that contained in the Hq USAF message of 13 November 1959. It was noted by AFBMD that the plans proposed for presentation would not be within the announced funding ceilings.

On 20 November 1959, Hq USAF reaffirmed the 13 November 1959 instructions and stated that the Development plans to be presented on 16 December 1959 would be consistent with funding ceilings; however, AFBMD could present as an additional agenda item a recommended program that exceeded the funding ceiling.

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On 21 December 1959, Hq USAF, after receiving guidance from the AFMCC, provided instructions to the AFMCD to prepare a revised development plan in accordance with funds available (FY 60 P-600 \$ 159.50 million, MCP \$10.8 million, ~~Additional funds required for the program would have to be obtained by internal Air Force reprogramming action. The SAMOS program should emphasize photo over ferret and should press for earliest flight demonstration of both readout and recovery.~~

Presentation to DDR&E of Air Force approved plans for this program for FY 60 and FY 61 is scheduled for 15 February 1960.

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