HISTORICAL EVALUATION
## Sentry Development Program

**Flight Test Schedule**

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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL
APPROVED 12 AUG 1969

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SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED; DOD DR 5200.10
PROGRAM STATUS
PROBLEMS

- Labor Strike
- Changing Requirements
- Technical Complexities
- Capability Limits
OBSERVATIONS-PRESENT PROGRAM

1. PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH 15 JAN '60 DEVELOPMENT PLAN
   AS APPROVED BY USAF & DOD

2. WITHIN COST ESTIMATES

3. REASONABLE DEVIATIONS FROM SCHEDULE

4. BASICALLY SOUND—CAN BE AUGMENTED READILY
GUIDANCE FOR 12 JULY '60 DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SAMOS

1 JUNE 60 GUIDANCE (GEN WILSON LTR)

AF UNDER SECRETARY DIRECTS RE-EVALUATION OF R&D EXPLOITATION AND OPERATIONAL PLANS—

"WHY"

A. CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL UNCERTAINTY AS TO CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OBTAINED BY THE DIFFERENT PAYLOADS

B. CHARACTER OF THE INITIAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL BE STRONGLY CONDITIONED BY R&D RESULTS

REVISED SAMOS DEV. PLAN REQUIRED ASAP
GROUND RULES FOR DEV PLAN REVISION
1 JUNE 60, GEN WILSON LTR

A. PARALLEL R&D TESTS OF READOUT AND RECOVERY
   RE-EXAMINE ALL APPLICABLE CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND MAKE
   RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTRODUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL
   RECOVERABLE PAYLOAD DEVELOPMENT

B. ACHIEVE EARLIEST FLIGHT DATES FOR THE DIFFERENT PAYLOADS
   WITH PRIORITIES
   PHOTO RECOVERY
   PHOTO READOUT
   FERRET

C. MAKE PROVISIONS FOR "MINIMUM ESSENTIAL CAPABILITY" TO HANDLE ANY R&D "TAKE"

D. CONSIDER EFFECT ON MIDAS PROGRAM
OTHER "KNOWN" GUIDANCE

1. DD/R&E STUDY - DR. BILLINGS

2. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT SAMOS PROGRAM

3. PRESIDENTIAL CONCERN

4. USIB REQUIREMENTS 5 JUL '60
PERTINENT COMMENTS FROM DD/R&E STUDY

1. THERE IS A NEED FOR COMPLETE COVERAGE (EURASIAN MASS) EVERY SIX MONTHS, AT E-2 RESOLUTION

2. REQMT'S CAN BE BETTER SATISFIED WITH A SIMPLER RECOVERY SYSTEM. ULTIMATE OPERATIONAL SYSTEM SHOULD CONSIST OF RECOVERY PACKAGES ONLY.
   - HIGHER RESOLUTION E-5 MIGHT OBTAIN PHOTOS OVER SPECIFIED AREAS WHEN NEEDED

3. A COMPLETE E-2 SYSTEM, OF MANY SATELLITES PROVIDES COMPETITION ONLY IF ONE NEGLECTS COST, COMPLEXITY, & FLEXIBILITY
   - FEASIBILITY OF AIMING (OBLIQUITY)
   - DATA LINK LIMITATIONS
   - WEATHER PROBLEM
   - ARCTIC NIGHT

4. PROCESSING OF PHOTOS SHOULD BE CARRIED ON THROUGH SAME ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM EMPLOYED TODAY
   - MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE
   - HIGHER INTELLIGENCE VALUE
   - FLEXIBLE

5. AS PRESENTLY CONCEIVED SAMSOS IS PRIMARILY A PRE-STRIKE DEVICE & SHOULD PROBABLY BE ASSIGNED TO A JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER-OUTPUT TO ALL CONSUMERS

6. DETERMINE POST-STRIKE REQMT'S
U.S.I.B. REQUIREMENTS

1. "SEARCH" RESOLUTION GROSS AREA COVERAGE. 
   20'/SIDE RESOLUTION

2. HI-RESOLUTION EXAMINATION OF SUSPECT AREAS. 
   5'/SIDE RESOLUTION

3. RECOVERY OF RECORDS PREFERABLE.

4. ACCELERATED STATE-OF-ART PROGRAM 
   1'/SIDE RESOLUTION

5. CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT TOWARD OPTIMUM 
   FERRET SYSTEM.
THE PROBLEM

TO FORMULATE A REVISED SAMOS DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH WILL CONCENTRATE ON RESOLVING TECHNICAL UNCERTAINTIES, STRENGTHENING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN AREAS WHICH WILL LEAD INTO OPTIMUM COVERAGE SYSTEMS, AND POSTPONING EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS UNTIL TECHNICAL RESULTS WILL ALLOW A LOGICAL EMPLOYMENT DECISION.
SEQUENCE OF RECENT EVENTS
SEQUENCE OF RECENT EVENTS (CONT'D)

PRESENTATIONS

- A.R.D.C. ......................................................... 5 JULY
- SENIOR AIR STAFF & SAFUS............................. 5 JULY
- WORKING GROUPS, WEAPONS BOARD.............. 6-7 JULY
- WEAPONS BOARD............................................. 8 JULY
- A.F.B.M.C. ....................................................... 15 JULY 60
- DEPT. OF DEFENSE.............................................. 18 JULY 60
- STAFF ELEMENTS ............................................. 19 JULY 60
RESULTS
OF
BRIEFINGS
SAFUS DIRECTION
(AFOSD-AT-70886) 20 JULY 60

- DO NOT PLAN THOR/SERGEANT LAUNCHES.

- ASSURE NEW RECOVERY PROGRAM IS MOST ADVANCED STATE OF ART WILL PERMIT WITH HIGHEST RESOLUTION POSSIBLE.
  CONSIDER EARLIEST FLIGHTS FOR THIS SYSTEM IN LIEU OF E2 OR F2

- ANTICIPATE IMMEDIATE APPROVAL OF NEW 3 PAD PT. ARGUELLO (ATLAS) COMPLEX.

- PLAN FOR THOR/AGENA AND TITAN LAUNCHES FOR COMPONENT TESTS WHERE POSSIBLE.

- EXAMINE AMR LAUNCH POSSIBILITIES.

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10
SAFUS DIRECTION

- PROTECT SCHEDULES (PENDING APPROVAL BY DD/RE) TO ASSURE EARLIEST AVAILABILITY OF NEW PAYLOADS. INCLUDES INITIATION OF SOURCE SELECTION ACTION.

- STUDY IMPACT OF PROGRAM REVISION ON BOOSTER SCHEDULES; PRESENT RESULTS TO AFBMC ASAP

- PT. ARGUELLO COMPLEX WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE ACTION.
Safus Direction
AFSD-AT 71953 23 July 60

- Secret -

1. Revise 12 July development plan as follows:
   - New launch schedule to include:
     - 3 E1/F1
     - 3 E2, 2 F2, 2 E5 (Diag)
     - 7 E-5
     - 7 E-6 & 2 E-6 (Diag)
   - Include 5 unassigned Atlas/Agena
     (2 reserved for E6 if required)
   - Buy a total of 4 F2 & 5 E-2 payloads

2. Initiate new recoverable payload and recovery system immediately.

3. Provide flexible payload capability to exploit early success.

- Secret -

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR IN...LS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.1Q
SAFUS DIRECTION (CONT'D)

- USE THOR/AGENA'S BOOST FOR RECOVERY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OR COMPONENT TESTS

- NO SOLID ROCKET BOOST

- MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF A.M.R.

- EXCLUDE SS/I (TO BE ADDED IN ANNEX WHEN GUIDANCE PERMITS)
ARDC GUIDANCE

RDRB 22-7-77 22 JULY 60
1. TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO COMPLY WITH AFDSD-AT 70836
2. ADVISE RDRB OF ESTIMATED DATE FOR AFBMC PRESENTATION REFERENCED PARA 3.

RDG 25-7-27 25 JULY 60 (PERSONAL GEN SCHRIEVER TO GEN RITLAND)
1. CERTAIN RECOVERY AND PHOTO SYSTEMS WILL BE EXPANDED.
2. ACCELERATION WILL BE DIRECTED.
3. MOST IMPORTANT - RELIABLE RECOVERY SYSTEM.
   (a) BRING ALL POSSIBLE RESOURCES TOGETHER - ARDC & OTHERS.
   (b) ADEQUATE PROGRAM SHOULD HAVE:
      (1) DISCOVERER (2) CURRENT SAMOS E-5
      (3) COMPETITIVE SAMOS (ATLAS)
      (4) FASTEST POSSIBLE SYSTEM RELATED TO BUT SEPARATE FROM
          (1) (2) (3)
          (EXAMPLE - AVCO DRAG BRAKE)
ARDC GUIDANCE (CONT'D)

RDG 25-7-27-E 25 JUL 60 (CONT'D)

4. PROPER MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL CONTROL
   (a) CENTRALIZED CONTROL.
   (b) OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN ADEQUATE NUMBERS
   (c) IMMEDIATE AND EXTRAORDINARY ACTION.
   (d) AEROSPACE

RDRB 26-7-102 26 JUL 60

1. REF: AFDSD-AT-71953, DIRECTED TO COMPLY.
2. FURTHER DIRECTION WILL BE FORWARD AS KNOWN

RDRB 26-7-105 26 JUL 60

DIRECT A STUDY OF AMR TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF LAUNCHING ATLAS/AGENA INTO POLAR ORBITS

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.1Q
SECRET

ARDC GUIDANCE (CONT'D)

RDRB-2-8-10 2 AUG 60
MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SS/I PHASED OVER TO AFCDGD ASAP
SS/I TO BE DISASSOCIATED FROM SAMOS

RDRB-2-8-12 2 AUG 60
1. NEW RECOVERY SYSTEM SHALL CONSIDER USING ATLAS AND/OR OTHER BOOSTERS
2. INCORPORATE NEW RECOVERY TECHNIQUES
3. CONSIDER AVCO UMBRELLA CONCEPT AND OTHERS
4. SCHEDULES & COSTS IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL BE BASED ON OPTIMUM NO.
   OF TEST SYSTEMS
5. LAUNCH OPERATIONS SHALL BE CARRIED OUT AT AMR
6. NOTIFY RDRB AS TO DATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

YOCG:
DO NOT RELEASE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PRIOR TO 11 AUGUST 1960

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY.
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.1Q
CMDR, ARDC INTENDS:

AFBMD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SATELLITE RECOVERY SYSTEMS

WADD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CAMERA EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT IN SATELLITE SYSTEMS

AFBMD & WADD PREPARE JOINT BRIEFING ON TIMELY RESPONSIBILITY TRANSFER

TIME PHASING

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS
PROGRESS REPORT

• ADDED TECHNICAL ASSURANCE
  AEROSPACE
  ARDC

• SOURCE SELECTION ACTIVITIES

• LAUNCH COMPLEXES
  PT. ARGUELLO #2
  THOR 75-1
  AMR
AEROSPACE

TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

- REVIEW PRESENT USAF PROGRAMS
- STUDY AGREED UPON DOD PROGRAM FOR FUTURE
- REVIEW NATIONAL NEEDS
- RECOMMEND COMPLETELY INTEGRATED PROGRAM

MID SEPTEMBER - MID OCTOBER SUPPORTED BY AEROSPACE TECHNICAL PEOPLE
ADVANCED TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - SURVEILLANCE AND RECCE

1. WADD IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO CONDUCT APPLIED RESEARCH IN RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE

2. THE PROGRAM IS BEING FORMULATED NOW BY WADD AND AFBMD

3. PROGRAM WILL BE DONE BY WADD; AT WADD

4. THIS DISCUSSION AREA SATISFACTORIZY RESOLVED
ADVANCED TECHNICAL AUGMENTATION PROGRAM

- SENSORS AND STORAGE SYSTEMS:
  - LENS AND MIRRORS
  - ANTENNAS
  - READOUT SYSTEMS
- STABILIZATION AND RECOVERY
- RELIABILITY
- RADAR CAMOUFLAGE
- TESTS:
  - SPACE PROBES
  - PHOTO PROCESSING AND REPRODUCTION
  - RECON. SIMULATOR
  - DYNAMIC ANALYZER
- OTHER STUDIES
  - WEATHER
  - RADIATION ENVIRONMENT
SOURCE SELECTION ACTIVITIES

• APPOINTMENT OF E-6 SAMOS SOURCE SELECTION BOARD.

• BOARD ORGANIZATION AND ORIENTATION.

• CURRENT BOARD ACTIONS (27 JULY THRU 5 AUG.)
  DEVELOPED GENERAL CRITERIA TO SELECT BIDDERS.
  DEVELOP SPECIFIC CRITERIA TO SELECT BIDDERS.
  APPLY CRITERIA AND DETERMINE LIST OF SELECTED BIDDERS.
  APPROVE WORK STATEMENT AND REQUEST PROPOSAL.

• FUTURE BOARD ACTIONS
  DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PROPOSALS (17-18 AUG.)
  EVALUATE PROPOSALS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. (13-20 SEPT)
PT ARGUELLO LAUNCH COMPLEX #2

- Conferences to finalize siting (AFBMD and PMR)

- B.O.D. 18 MO'S., 1ST LAUNCH 0/A OCT 62

- Blockhouse + 3 pads

- Funding approved
THOR 75-1

1. COST ESTIMATES TO ARDC - 15 July 60

2. LMSD - DAC INFORMALLY REQUESTED TO PROCEED - 22 July 60

3. NOTIFICATION OF PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY ACTION - 2 Aug 60

4. DEFINITIZED WORK STATEMENT APPROVAL - 17 Aug 60

5. FIRST LAUNCH CAPABILITY - 15 May 61

6. COST $2.33 M
AMR

• UTILIZATION REVIEW

1. PAD 12:
   AUG.-SEPT. '61 - UNASSIGNED
   DEC. '61 ADVENT
   FEB. '62 ADVENT
   PECULIAR PAYLOAD EQUIP. RQD.

2. PAD 13:
   REQUIRES REMOD. TO ATLAS "D" CONFIG.
   REQUIRES MOD:
   COMPLETE GSE [REDacted] APRIL '62
   LASHUP GSE [REDacted] MID '61

3. PAD 14
   MERCURY
AMR (CONT'D)

- CAPABILITY STUDY: (COMPLETION 0/A 16 SEP 60)
  - POLAR ORBIT CONSIDERATIONS
  - RANGE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS
  - RECOVERY FEASIBILITY

- PLAN:
  - SCHEDULE 3 REMAINING UNASSIGNED ATLAS/AGENA LAUNCHES FROM PAD 12

  - DETERMINE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING OTHER SCHEDULED PT. ARGUELLO LAUNCHES TO AMR BASED ON EVALUATION OF THE JOINT AMR-BMD STUDY
## Program Comparison

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<td>3 E-1/F-1</td>
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<td>3 F-2</td>
<td>2 F-2 (BUY 4)</td>
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<td>7 E-5</td>
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<td>2 E-6 (DIAG)</td>
<td>2 E-6 (DIAG)</td>
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<td><strong>Total 25</strong></td>
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<td>PLUS: 5 ATLAS/AGENA (UNASSIGNED)</td>
<td>PLUS: 5 THOR/AGENA 3 ATLAS/AGENA (UNASSIGNED)</td>
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SAMOS LAUNCH SCHEDULE REVISIONS
11 AUG DEV PLAN

1961

J F M A M J J A S O N D

1962

J F M A M J J A S O N D

COMP TESTS
E_1/F_1

READOUT VISUAL
E-2

VISUAL RECOVERY
E-5

DIGITAL FERRET
F-2

ADVANCED FERRET
F-3

E-6 THOR SOLID
E-6 ATLAS

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.2R
SAMOS LAUNCH SCHEDULE REVISIONS
15 JAN DEV PLAN

COMP TESTS
E sub 1 over F sub 1

READOUT VISUAL
E-2

VISUAL RECOVERY
E-3

DIGITAL FERRET
F-2

ADVANCED FERRET
F-3

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS. NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10
NEW FEATURES

1. ALLOCATION OF 2 RESERVE ATLAS/AGENAS FOR DIAGNOSTIC E6

2. ADDITION OF 5 STANDARD THOR BOOSTED COMPONENT TEST VEHICLES

3. EXPANDED ADVANCED TECHNICAL R&D PROGRAM

4. NO THOR-SOLID DEVELOPMENT

5. COMPLEX #2, PT ARGUELLO (3 PAD)

6. DUAL INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SEARCH CAMERAS AND ASSOCIATED RECOVERY SYSTEMS
NEW FEATURES (CONT'D)

7. E6 AND E5 DISPLACE ALL EARLY READOUT FLIGHTS EXCEPT 3 E1/F1, 2 E2 & 1 F2

8. AMR UNDER STUDY TO DETERMINE UTILITY FOR SAMOS
COST SUMMARY

ALIGNED EXISTING PROGRAM
E-1/E-2, E-2, E-5, F-2, DIAG. E-5 RECOVERY- 17 FLTS.

BACKUP TECHNICAL EFFORTS
GROUND TESTS & UNITS, STATE-OF-ART DEVEL., WEATHER PROGRAM, ETC.

NEW RECOVERY PROGRAM
7+2 DIAGNOSTIC FLT & GSE
DUAL RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT
DUAL PAYLOAD DEVELOPMENT

TECHNICAL SUPERVISION-AEROSPACE CORP.
SYSTEM INTEGRATION

ADDITIONAL BOOSTERS & AGENAS
8 AGENA, 5 THOR 3 ATLAS

ADDITIONAL ATLAS COMPLEX, GSE, MAB.
GSE(THOR), ATLAS/AGENA PAD CONVERSION ANR

TOTAL

SUB TOTAL

TOTAL

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS. NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 85-03-20
COST SUMMARY

ALIGNED EXISTING PROGRAM
E-1/E-2, E-2, E-5, F-2, DIAG. E-5. RECOVERY-20 FLTS.

BACKUP TECHNICAL EFFORTS
GROUND TESTS & UNITS. STATE-OF-ART DEVEL., WEATHER PROGRAM, ETC.

NEW RECOVERY PROGRAM
8+2 DIAGNOSTIC FLT. PROGRAM & GSE
THOR-SOLID DEVELOPMENT & TEST
PAD MOD. (.2)
ACCURACY RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT
(RTV FLTS. SUPPORTING VEHICLES & TESTING GRND. SUPPORT, ETC.)

TECHNICAL SUPERVISION-AEROSPACE CORP.
SYSTEM INTEGRATION

ADDITIONAL BOOSTERS & AGENAS (5 EA.)
INCLUDING PREP & LNCH COSTS

ADDITIONAL ATLAS COMPLEX, GSE, MAB.

TOTAL

SUB TOTAL

TOTAL

SECRET

12 JULY PLAN

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO EXISTING SAMOS PROGRAM

2. APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE, THE RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL RECOVERABLE PAYLOAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THE REQUISITE ADDITIONAL FUNDS

3. NOTE THE EFFECT ON MIDAS PROGRAM
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (CONT'D)

4. PERMISSION FROM COMMANDER, ARDC, TO PROCEED WITH SOURCE SELECTION