

SECRET
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

NO.	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Grade and Surname)	ORIGINATOR (Symbol)	TELEPHONE NO.	DATE
1	Approval	<i>[Signature]</i>	AFDSD-AT	71791	31 May 1960
2	Copy	<i>[Signature]</i>			
3	Copy	<i>[Signature]</i>			
4	Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>			
			ACTION OFFICER	<i>[Signature]</i>	
				<i>[Signature]</i>	TYPIST'S INITIALS
				Major Howard	SSS
				(Typed Grade and Surname)	

SUBJECT:
 SAMOS and MIDAS

SUMMARY:

Reference: Letter from General Power to General White

- General Power expressed concern over the lack of progress in the SAMOS development program and lack of approval for any operational programs to date. In addition, the Under Secretary of the Air Force is withholding the approval for "Early Fix" facility at Omaha.
- The proposed answer provides the current status of these programs and the further redirection of the operational plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

- That the Chief of Staff sign the proposed reply.

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

1 Atch
 Proposed ltr to Gen Power

JOHN L. MARTIN, JR.
 Colonel, USAF
 Deputy Assistant for Advanced
 Technology, DCS/Development

Major [illegible]

14-00000

1. That the authority be given General Power to General White

2. That the authority be given over the lack of progress in the [illegible] development of any operational programs to date. In addition, the [illegible] is withholding the approval for "Reply File" [illegible]

3. That the [illegible] provide the current status of these programs and the further [illegible] of the operational plan.

3. That the [illegible] of Staff sign the proposed reply.

JOHN L. MARTIN, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Assistant for Advanced
Technology, DCS/Development

1 Stan
Proposed ltr to Gen Power

11/15/68
JLM
JLM

AFCDP

AFXPD

AFCIN

Col. Wood

Col. [illegible]
MAS G. [illegible]

AFSD Coord Cy
AFSD Info Cy
AFSD Info Cy
AFSD [illegible]

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JUNE 1960

General
Secretary
Director
Chief of Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Dear Sir:

By letter of 20 April 1960, the Chief of the Secretary of Defense has approved in principle the program of work as outlined in the Research and Development Plan for FY 1960, the DISCOVERY, and the MIDAS programs. This program of work is being carried out by the JCS and the JCS staff. It is my belief that this represents an important step in the development of our missile program.

The operational program, both as to scope and timing, does not enjoy the same status. The operational plans were sent by the Secretary of Defense to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in February 1960 for comment. Since that time the Chief of Staff has recommended his proposal for a Joint Military Review of the program. I feel that it is most important that these two programs be handled separately. It is necessary, therefore, to dispose of the latter action first. This is being done.

There has been and continues to be strong opposition to the Operational Plans. Approval of the MIDAS plan is being delayed because of the doubt that has been expressed both orally and otherwise by JCS in our ability to achieve the necessary degree of reliability. The cost of operation of an operational missile system can be substantial. There are no operational missiles in the inventory as of 1961, although I have asked the Secretary of Defense to approve our requests for these. As for the JCS, the JCS staff and various scientific advisory groups believe our plan ambitious and unrealistic. As yet we have been unable to sell temporary or interim programs. However, we are continuing to plug for this at this time.

It is my belief that the opposition exists to the present operational plans for this is because of such approval. The requirement at this time

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of a \$25,000 ... It is clear that in order to ... of SACM, it will be necessary to ... plans. Therefore, I have directed ... to prepare a new plan for exploitation of any possible ... which may result from the RND tests. I understand your staff is ... with ARDC. Since you will be involved with this exploitation, ... new plan to be actually acceptable.

Sincerely,
Signed
THOMAS D. WHITE
Chief of Staff

CHIEF OF STAFF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AFDPC
Internal Office Coordination		MAJ	618 AUC								Gen. Wilson has seen and concurs W.E. Yarnall 14 June

AFDPC-AT

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Plans and Programs

Chief of Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Air Force

On 20 April 1960, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved in principle the development of a Research and Development Plan, dated 15 February 1960, for the JCS and MIDAS. This approval pertains to the JCS and MIDAS and JCS vehicles. These R&D launches will be accelerated on the fastest schedule that is feasible. It is my belief that this represents an acceptable R&D program.

The operational program, both as to scope and timing, does not enjoy the same status. The operational plans were sent to the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in February 1960 for comment. Since that time the Chief of Naval Operations has resubmitted his proposal for a Joint Military Astronautics Command and I feel that it is most important that these two JCS actions be kept separate. It is necessary, therefore, to dispose of the latter action first and we are pursuing this action with haste.

There has been and continues to exist serious opposition to the Operational Plans. The MIDAS plans are being opposed primarily because of lack of confidence by SENSE in the probability of actually achieving the design goals and hence, not yet considered favorably even for operational funding. There are no operational funds presently in the FY 1961 budget, although I have asked the Secretary of Defense and the Congress to approve operational fund requests. As for SENSE, the DOD, and various scientific advisory groups believe our plan is too ambitious and unrealistic. We have not been able to sell ourselves for our space programs, even though at every opportunity all Air Force spokesmen have pledged for and will continue to sell the program.

The Under Secretary of the Air Force requested me on 17 May 1960 to prepare a new interdepartmental plan and to make provision to handle in a reasonable fashion any operational case from the R&D flights.

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This would be a...
of all...
responsible for the operation.

...will not be...
...as well as...
...questions as...
...instructions provided. It seems necessary...
...which will also provide...
...Soviet...
...operational...
...data.



AFDSD-12/Maj Howard/4as/71791/31 May 60



- AFDSD Coord Cy
- AFCCS File Cy
- AFDDC Info Cy
- AFCIN Info Cy
- AFCVC Info Cy

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