

SUMMARY OF THE [ADVANCED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM] DEVELOPMENT

1. The following is a chronology of the events in the satellite program to date:

a. 1946-1947 - Rand Study developed the concept of the [satellite as a reconnaissance vehicle but not as a weapon carrier.]

b. 1947-1953 - Further studies by Rand.

c. 1948 January 16 - General Vandenberg issued a Statement of Policy for a Satellite Vehicle stating that Research and Development will be pursued as rapidly as progress in the Guided Missile art justified and requirements dictate.

d. 1950 - Research and Development Board vested satellite custody in the Air Force.

e. 1951 - Rand made further recommendations for [reconnaissance applications] in their report (RAND - 217, April 1951).

f. 1951 - Feasibility studies for critical sub-systems initiated for Television (RCA), attitude control (North American Aviation), and Nuclear Auxiliary Power Units (Bendix Aviation, Frederick Flader, Allis Chalmers, and Vitro Corporation).

g. February 1954 - Final Report by Rand (Rand 262) recommending the development of the [Advanced Reconnaissance System.]

h. 27 November 1954 - The AACC published System Requirement No. 5.

i. 16 March 1955 - General Operational Requirement Number 80 was published.

j. March 1955 - Design study proposals were solicited from selected contractors. Those solicited were the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, the Radio Corporation of America, Glenn L. Martin Company, and Bell Telephone Laboratories, Bell Telephone Laboratories declined to submit a proposal.

k. 20 May 1955 - National Security Council paper (NSC 5520) on U.S. Scientific Satellite Program.

l. 21 May 1955 - Joint Chiefs of Staff Comments on NSC 5520 (JCS 1899/203).

m. 17 October 1955 - AACC revised System Requirement No. 5.

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b. 14 January 1956 - The Western Development Division of the Air Research and Development Command completed a proposed Development Plan for a Scientific Satellite System capable of being launched during the International Geophysical Year. Cost of launching six satellites was estimated to be \$95,500,000. Plan was submitted to SACD.

c. March 1956 - Design studies culminated in three separate and distinct development plans. The Lockheed proposal was considered to meet the requirements most satisfactorily.

d. 2 April 1956 - The Western Development Division of the Air Research and Development Command completed a Development Plan for Weapon System 117L, [the Advanced Reconnaissance System.]

e. 8 May 1956 - Memorandum for the National Security Council, subject: "NSC 5520" by James S. Lay Jr., Executive Secretary.

f. 24 July 1956 - The Development Plan for WS 117L was approved by Headquarters USAF.

g. 3 August 1956 - Development Directive 85 was issued on WS 117L. \$3,000,000 of FY-57 P-600 funds made available to ARDC to initiate development.

h. 17 August 1956 - ARDC System Development Directive was issued.

i. October 1956 - Lockheed Aircraft Corporation was awarded a development and test contract (AF 04(647)-97). Massachusetts Institute of Technology was awarded the contract for Research and Development of the WS 117L Guidance and Orbital Altitude Control Equipment in Contract AF 04(647)-103.

j. 10 December 1956 - Guidance letter was sent to ARDC following a briefing presented to Mr. Charles on 29 November 1956. An additional \$2,000,000 was programmed to raise the total to \$5,000,000 of P-600 funds for FY 1957. ARDC was told to continue development and testing of all component items and not to plan to launch this system prior to FY 1961.

k. 21 December 1956 - The Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) stated the Air Force requirement for a nuclear auxiliary power source for WS 117L.

l. 8 January 1957 - Release of an additional \$5,000,000 FY 57 P-600 was made to raise the total to \$10,000,000.

m. 11 February 1957 - At the request of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) the Air Force submitted new cost estimates and time schedules for the development and launching of a Scientific Satellite modified from the WS 117L [Advanced Reconnaissance System.]

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each situation before it happens. The problem areas include International, National, Interservice and Air Force Problems. This study has not been completed.

E.g. 31 May 1957 - In accordance with a request from the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (ASD) a memorandum reviewing the Advanced Reconnaissance System was dispatched signed by Major General Smart. The review consisted of six parts: Background; Support; Proposed Development Program; Political and Psychological Implications; Finances; and Recommendations.

h.h. 22 August 1957 - The Air Force Council was briefed on all Reconnaissance Systems planned for or in development. This included WS 117L. Funding requirements for both an austere and desired development program were submitted.

l.i. 23 August 1957 - At the request of the Chief of Naval Operations, members of the Naval Staff were briefed on WS 117L. It is the opinion of the Chief of Naval Operations that a single system of the WS 117L type will suffice the national needs providing the requirements of all users are incorporated in the system design.

J.J. 3 September 1957 - Authority granted AROC to construct a mock-up and ground and non-orbital flight test vehicles for WS 117L.

k.k. 16 September 1957 - The Air Force Council again reviewed the Reconnaissance Systems and recommended that the desired funds be supplied AROC for the development of WS 117L. Following the Air Force Council meeting a conference was held and established the following budget for FY 1958 and 1959:

	<u>FY-1958</u>	<u>FY-1959</u>
P-100	\$35,100,000	\$40,000,000
P-200	2,400,000	22,000,000
P-300	-	8,500,000
P-600	<u>10,000,000</u>	<u>32,000,000</u>
TOTAL	\$47,500,000	\$102,500,000

Approval of these funds has not been received.

l.l. 19 September 1957 - A financial plan for the use of the funds recommended above was received from the Ballistic Missile Division of the AROC.

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M.M. 20 September 1957 - The Ballistic Missile Division of the ARDC briefed members of the President's Science Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

M.M. 20 September 1957 - Top Secret letter received from Ballistic Missile Division of the ARDC, subject: Proposed Reorientation of the Advanced Reconnaissance System with 1st Indorsement from Commander, ARDC.

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