



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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3 FEB 1958

AFCIN-1A2

**MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBJECT: (Secret) Thor - Vanguard Satellite Exploitation Plan.**

1. To assure adequate and timely exploitation of the raw photo materials obtained from the advance version of 117L (Thor - Vanguard), the attached readout and data reduction plan has been prepared by my Reconnaissance Branch. In this plan, consideration has been given to community wide intelligence requirements and an effort has been made to assure adequate and timely distribution of duplicate copies of the photo materials as well as resulting reports.
2. It is my understanding that Air Research and Development Command is now investigating equipment to process and exploit this photography. Our requirements for this equipment were stated in a memorandum to your office, subject: Ground Handling Equipment - WS-461L, dated 21 January 1958. In this memorandum we expressed our desire that the processing and exploitation equipment developed would not only fulfill the requirements of WS-461L but for other future systems such as the advance version of 117L (Thor - Vanguard).
3. Therefore, it is requested that you give this plan your consideration in the development of equipment and the operational plan for this project.

**MILLARD LEWIS**  
Maj Gen, USAF  
Ass't Chief of Staff, Intelligence

Incl  
Readout & Data  
Reduction Plan,  
w/incl (2 cys)

CLASSIFIED AT 12 YEAR  
INTERVAL NOT AUTOMATICALLY  
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5800.9

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WD-58-01345

27 Feb 58

Ken Pittland,

Cal messages left  
this paper with me. He  
is concerned about  
the use of Thor-Vanguard  
terminology rather than  
Thor-117-L. I am more  
concerned about what is  
to develop OPR, CQ, etc  
concepts. We should be  
doing that first after which  
they are given to HQ USAS for  
review and approval. Is that.

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READOUT AND DATA REDUCTION PLAN FOR PHOTO  
MATERIALS FROM THE THOR - VANGUARD SATELLITE

(117L)

1. **PURPOSE:** This plan outlines the assignment of responsibilities for the processing, exploitation and reporting of photographic materials recovered from the Thor - Vanguard satellite.

2. **GENERAL:**

a. Facts:

- (1) The operational control and launching of the Thor - Vanguard satellite are the responsibility of the Air Research and Development Command.
- (2) Operations are tentatively scheduled to begin in October 1958.

b. Assumptions:

- (1) Launchings will be executed from either Camp Cooke or Patrick Air Force Base dependent on the availability of launch stands.
- (2) A total of no more than 18 vehicles will be fired at a rate not to exceed two a month.
- (3) Recovery of the photo capsule will be made in the water by ARDC, Weather Service or similar agency to be designated by Hq USAF.
- (4) Initial processing and exploitation of all photo materials will be accomplished by SAC.

c. Steps: The implementation of procedures outlined in this plan are the responsibilities of SAC and ARDC.

3. **PROCESSING:** Upon delivery of the photo capsule to CINCSAC, the film will be processed by the CINCSAC designated reuse technical facility and nine (9) high quality duplicates made immediately from the original negative. Distribution will be in accordance with the distribution listed in Annex "A".

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**4. REPORTING:**

a. Immediate P. I. Report: Within 24 hours after the completion of processing and duplication, an Immediate P. I. Report will be accomplished in accordance with paragraph 14a, Section IV and Section V, AFR 200-6 and electrically transmitted to agencies listed in Annex "A".

b. Mission Review P. I. Report: Within 72 hours after the completion of the IPIR, the RT facility responsible for the processing will render a Mission Review P. I. Report in accordance with paragraph 15, Section IV and Section V, AFR 200-6, and make distribution in accordance with Annex "G".

c. Detailed & Special P. I. Reports: Detailed and Special P. I. Reports will be accomplished in accordance with paragraphs 16 and 17 Section IV and Section V, AFR 200-6, to fulfill requirements levied by Headquarters USAF.

4. **SECURITY:** All photo materials, raw or finished, and P. I. Reports, will be classified as **SECRET** and handled in accordance with AFR 205-1.

Incl  
Annex "A"

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