

[REDACTED]
HEADQUARTERS
AMC BALLESTO MISSILES CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Air Force Unit Post Office
Los Angeles 45, California

REPLY TO
ATTN OF **LEZJ/2712**

3 December 1959

SUBJECT: **WEEKLY DIARY - 27 November thru 3 December 1959**

TO: **LBG**

Satellite Systems

1. Ground Equipment Categorization: (UNCL)

The ISM, in conjunction with IMSD, established a panel to develop standard definitions for GOE, GSE and RPIE to be used by IMSD in identifying SAMOS Weapon System Ground Equipment. This panel has developed definitions and in addition has published a representative list of Ground Equipment Categories to be used by IMSD in determining equipment categories. This action will enhance equipment identification which is currently being initiated on the SAMOS equipment to insure that all activities utilize the same definitions in identifying ground equipment. A team of BMD/BMC, ISM and IMSD personnel will convene at the contractors next week to proceed with the individual item breakout.

2. MIDAS Vehicle Acceptance: (~~SECRET~~)

MIDAS Vehicle #1 was accepted by the Air Force Acceptance Team on 2 December 59 and is now being prepared for MATS shipment to AMR. It is anticipated that the airlift aircraft will depart Moffett Field, California with the vehicle aboard on 3 December 59.

3. DISCOVERER Launch: (UNCL)

DISCOVERER VIII was launched on 20 November 59. Launch, ascent, separation, coast and orbital boost were all successful. Due to a guidance error, the apogee was higher than nominal and the orbital period was 103 minutes instead of 93 to 95 minute optimum. Capsule was ejected on 15th orbit, however, failure of the recovery package parachute caused recovery attempts to be unsuccessful.

4. Overtime Utilization on Satellite Program: (UNCL)

The rate of overtime utilized by IMSD for November was 7.7%. This is below the contractor's commitment of maintaining overtime at or below 8%.

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD Dm 5200.10

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5. Negotiation of Contracts: (UNCL)

Negotiation of DISCOVERER, MIDAS, SAMOS and Communications and Control contracts were scheduled to sequentially commence beginning 23 November. Cost discussions did commence, starting with DISCOVERER on that date. However, certain fund ceilings were imposed upon these programs by USAF which made it clear that adequate funding was not available to procure the effort set forth in the contractor's proposals. It became necessary to reprogram to a level consistent with budgets. It was determined that this reprogramming could be done at the negotiation table as the least objectionable procedure between this and requiring the contractor to repropose to the reduced rate of effort. This unplanned activity in the negotiation will affect the definitization schedules established. Negotiation will take longer than it would otherwise have taken.

6. Space for Wing Complement 6594th Test Wing: (UNCL)

A requirement was established sometime ago to provide space for the Wing complement in Lockheed buildings at Sunnyvale. It was found contrary to Air Force directives to lease space under these conditions. Studies are now being made to ascertain the availability of the required space within Government-owned installations in the vicinity of Sunnyvale. Consideration is being given to the feasibility of obtaining such space at Moffett NAS. Consideration is also being given to the possibility of condensing operations in the Air Force-owned DQC building to provide temporary arrangements. Pending completion of these studies, no action can be taken to provide the necessary space, and the people concerned will remain in a Lockheed building until that time.

7. SAMOS/MIDAS/DISCOVERER Development Plans: (UNCL)

New Development Plans for these programs will be carried into the Pentagon approximately 15 December.

Sherman E. Ellis
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