



3 Feb 58

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SUBJECT: Astronautics Program

TO: Commander
Air Research & Development Command
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D.C.

1. At the personal request of General Putt the following guidance on the BRATS, recoverable satellite and moon impact programs is forwarded.

2. Pending clarification of relationships and responsibilities of the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force cannot at this time secure full authorization to proceed with the initiation of System 609A. Permission has, however, been obtained to proceed on an expedited basis with necessary source selection proceedings in anticipation of an early decision.

3. It is therefore desired that you take such action as is necessary to select a contractor to undertake the BRATS development. This action should be completed not later than 14 February 1958, but is not to be carried to the point of announcing the selection of a contractor or the commitment of funds without prior approval of this Headquarters.

4. In addition to BRATS the Air Force must accomplish the following three missions using the THOR booster:

- a. Nose cone re-entry test
- b. Recoverable satellite
- c. Moon impact.

5. With regard to the above three missions:

a. It is understood that the nose cone re-entry tests will begin in April and that the required funds are available to conduct this test.

b. Your command has authority to develop the recoverable satellite as part of WS 1171 and that first launch date is set for October 1958. Every effort must be taken to meet this date.

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c. The Air Force does not yet have the authority to conduct a moon impact program, but is essential that your Headquarters take the necessary planning action to expedite this program immediately upon approval from the Department of Defense. Cost estimates for the moon impact program received from your command were approximately one million dollars. This program will be funded on the same basis as the three line items referred to in letter, this Headquarters, subject: Fiscal Year 1958 and 1959 R&D Program, dated 3 February 1958.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

s/t H. A. BOUSHEY
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director of Research
and Development
DCS/Development

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