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RS 7000/161

File No.: XW-59,71, 2-4

Mr. K. F. Hartford, Manager
Albuquerque Operations Office
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico

SEARCHED	
INDEXED	6/26/61
SERIALIZED	2 27 US Army
FILED	7/9/61
[Handwritten signatures and initials]	

Re: Program Timestables for the GAM-87A/SKYBOLT

- References:
- (1) SRD TWX, Starbird to Hartford, Ref. DTG 251715Z, MAR:JAG, RS 3466/146382, subject, Phase 3 Development of Warhead for the GAM-87A/SKYBOLT, dtd 1/25/61
 - (2) SRD Military Characteristics for a Nuclear Warhead for the SKYBOLT GAM-87A Missile, Approved by MLC, 7 February 1961, RS 3466/147380
 - (3) SRD Ltr., K. F. Hartford to S. P. Schwartz and N. E. Bradbury, dtd 2/10/61, Symbol: PW:RRL, RS 3466/146881, subject, Phase 3 Development of Warhead for the GAM-87A (SKYBOLT)

Reference 1 requested AEC-ALO to proceed with preliminary arrangements for Phase 3 development of the XW-59 warhead for the SKYBOLT application. It also requested the AEC-ALO to indicate if the desired date of July 1, 1963 for the first production unit could be met. Sandia Corporation delayed in commenting on Reference 1 until the Military Characteristics (Reference 2) were received. Reference 3 is authorization to proceed with Phase 3 development of the XW-59 warhead for use in SKYBOLT.

After reviewing the Military Characteristics, it is apparent that the non-powered, free-fall trajectory required for the SKYBOLT makes the XW-59, as designed for the MINUTEMAN, incompatible in the area of the environmental sensing device. There are no environmental sensing devices presently available that are well suited to sense the environment peculiar to the SKYBOLT subsequent to release in the free-fall trajectory. A development program has been initiated to provide such a device.

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SERIALIZED	7/9/61
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[Handwritten signatures: Emelda Selton, R. B. Craney]	
PERSON VERIFYING MARKING & DATE	7/9/61

NO [Redacted]

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K. F. Hertford, Manager, ALO - 2 -

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At the first meeting of the GAM-87A/SKYBOLT Joint Working Group held March 14-15, 1961, the missile prime contractor, Douglas Aircraft Company, stated that the OAD for the missile had been delayed and is presently scheduled for the period September-October 1964. Warhead flight testing will commence early in 1963 and will continue about one year. In view of this, an FPU date of July 1964 for the warhead appears to be more realistic. This date will permit an orderly development program for the environmental sensing device, as well as completion of the flight test program.

Reference 1 also requested Sandia Corporation to include the estimated FY 61 expenditures for the GAM-87A/SKYBOLT in the midyear budget review. A small portion of the funds requested in the midyear review for Pre-Phase 3 work is intended for SKYBOLT. Sandia intends to place orders for future payment before the close of FY 61. It is expected that approximately \$6400 will be expended for the SKYBOLT application in FY 61.

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CLENN A. FOWLER

JRP:7183-2:ij

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