

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NLE 2012-44 #10  
By MMK NLDDE Date 2/14/17

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

WJ

SUPPLEMENT TO STAFF NOTES NO. 423

September 16, 1958

1. Weather Reconnaissance. -- Bendix Aviation has been selected as contractor to develop a model of a new weather reconnaissance subsystem. The equipment, to be used with a KC-135 type aircraft, will eventually replace the present WB-50's. Air Force expects that a new jet weather reconnaissance fleet will achieve long range economy, since about half as many KC-135 aircraft will be required to cover the routes now flown by WB-50's. Additionally, the system will contain new weather reconnaissance features. (U)
2. Hurricane Hunting. -- The use of airborne early warning radar will increase the effective range of hurricane observation by 75 to 150 miles. Now in use by Navy aircraft at Jacksonville, the radar relay system will place hurricanes under the direct surveillance of the Miami forecaster. (U)
3. Airship Fabrics. -- Navy's new dacron fabric, now being tested on four airships, has greatly reduced helium losses and increased resistance to weathering. The new fabric has been recommended for all future airship envelopes. (U)
4. Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Aircraft. -- The recent successful transition flights (vertical takeoff to hovering, to forward, to hovering flight, and vertical landing) by a VZ-2 tilt-wing VTOL aircraft constitute a major achievement in the development of this type aircraft. (U)
5. Aircraft Contrails. -- The Air Force reports progress in its program to develop fuels which will reduce or eliminate aircraft contrails, which increase detection and interception hazards in combat. (S)
6. SERGEANT Missile. -- The second fully-guided SERGEANT firing was recently accomplished using a field launcher, rather than a special R & D firing platform. Firings to date indicate the likelihood that the required 300-meter probable error (CEP) will be achieved. This surface-to-surface missile will replace the CORPORAL system and is planned for troop availability in August 1961. (C)



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Sup. to SN # 423

- 2 -

7. DART Program Cancelled. -- Defense has approved Army's request to terminate the development program for this surface-to-surface anti-tank missile. The termination was based on lack of development progress and the need for major redesign. SS10 and SS11 anti-tank guided missiles will be procured to give Army an interim capability. (S)

8. Standards for Modern Weapons Systems. -- Commerce reports the establishment of a joint National Bureau of Standards-Air Force Committee to coordinate long-range planning of precision calibration and measurement standards for advanced weapons systems. (Admin. Conf.)



~~SECRET~~