

86TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 1240

EFFECTING IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF THE DEVELOPMENT
OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE ARMY BALLISTIC MISSILE
AGENCY TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION

FEBRUARY 4, 1960.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. Sisk, from the Committee on Science and Astronautics, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 567]

The Committee on Science and Astronautics, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 567) to effect immediately the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2 in the fifth paragraph, delete the word "Congres" and in lieu thereof insert the word "Congress".

PURPOSE OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION

Pursuant to section 302 of Public Law 85-568, the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 433), the President submitted, under date of January 14, 1960, a transfer plan, together with a report, proposing to transfer the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency from the Department of the Army to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 302(c)(2), such transfer cannot be effected until a report has been before the Congress for 60 days without the adoption of a concurrent resolution opposing the transfer.

Under the provisions of this resolution, the Congress shall take affirmative action providing that the transfer plan, submitted by the President on January 14, 1960, shall take effect immediately upon the enactment of this resolution.

EXPLANATION OF THE RESOLUTION

For many years American supremacy in science and engineering has gone without a challenge. Today, however, the committee is seriously concerned about the lag in national programs for space science and exploration. Responsibility for overcoming this lag and for promoting programs for space science and exploration is vested by law in the President and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The committee heard testimony from the Honorable Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army, relative to President Eisenhower's statement issued on October 21, 1959, to the effect that the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency can best serve the national interest in the space effort by being made an integral part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Accordingly, on October 22, 1959, the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff issued a joint statement that every effort would be made to effect this transfer with a minimum of disruption to all military and space efforts. The objective was to effect the transfer without the loss of a single day in the national space effort. The committee is of the opinion that the adoption of this joint resolution will add impetus to this effort.

The Department of the Army and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration thereafter executed an agreement, under date of November 18, 1959, establishing objectives and guidelines for implementation of the President's decision to effect this transfer.

The transfer of the Von Braun team will give NASA a unique competence in the space vehicle department. There have previously been transferred to the NASA the Vanguard group and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory operated under contract with the California Institute of Technology. Neither the Vanguard nor the JPL group, however, has provided NASA with the necessary capability to develop big space vehicle systems. The Huntsville group will give to NASA a team of outstanding experts who are capable, not only of inhouse research and development of large launching vehicles, but also of providing, as needed, the responsible technical monitoring and direction of the various industrial contractors who assist in the engineering and production of such launching vehicles.

An important consideration for the immediate enactment of this joint resolution is to expedite the transfer plan. Further, it would be of great help in removing unemployment uncertainties for those now connected with the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and those persons whom NASA seeks to retain from among administrative and plant support groups now attached to other elements of the Redstone Arsenal organizations. Although this is primarily psychological, the immediate approval of this transfer plan will set at rest the minds of many persons working on important space programs.

SUMMARY OF THE ARMY-NASA TRANSFER PLAN

The plan provides for the transfer to NASA of personnel, facilities, and equipment of the Development Operations Division and of appropriate supporting organizations in sufficient numbers and quantities

to provide NASA with a substantially independent operating research and development organization and capability.

The plan recognizes and provides for the continued performance by the Army of its mission. Two basic methods are used to achieve this result. First by providing for the continuance of service to the Army of the transferred group and second, by providing for retention by the Army of capability for continuing weapons system management.

Fundamental to the plan is a concept of phasing operations and responsibility in a manner calculated to prevent dislocation or disruption of ongoing programs.

Generally, all personnel of the Development Operations Division will be transferred to NASA. However, in order to enable the Army to maintain a weapons system management capability up to 350 personnel of the Division will be offered an opportunity to remain with the Army. This group includes personnel currently in the weapons system project manager offices and a complement of representative skills from each laboratory area. The completion of current weapons systems assignment will be accomplished using the capabilities of the transferred group with a phasing out of NASA and assumption by the Army as may be agreed upon.

In general, the new NASA organization at Redstone Arsenal will be locally self-sufficient. To accomplish this and to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities or central service type organizations, the plan provides for the transfer of 815 personnel in the areas of support services provided the Development Operations Division from AOMC organization at Redstone Arsenal. This number represents about two-thirds of the supporting staff which NASA will ultimately require and recognizes the Army's personnel requirements to continue to carry out its continuing mission.

The determination of numbers of personnel to be transferred from the service support areas was based upon the following general alignment of functions. Functions involving the management control functions such as fiscal, budget, personnel, and planning, and functions involving immediate service to the technical groups, such as supply, facility and equipment maintenance, and physical security, will be operated by the NASA organization. Functions relating to station-wide services such as foundry, perimeter security, electric, steam and water service, will be provided the new NASA organization by the Army on a reimbursable basis.

The approximately 250 enlisted military personnel now within the Development Operations Division will be phased out over a period of time. In general, the unskilled group will be phased out almost immediately and the more skilled specialties over a somewhat longer but specifically agreed upon time span. No officer personnel would remain with the transferred organization.

The plan provides for making available to NASA a contiguous area at Redstone Arsenal encompassing virtually all the facilities now used by the Development Operations Division. It has been possible to achieve this with a minimum of displacement of either Development Operations Division or Army personnel. A few minor structures now used by DOD outside the NASA area are to be retained by the Army and a few structures within the NASA area now used by the Army will be released to NASA.

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Army headquarters office structure will remain with the Army but will be shared until appropriate permanent arrangements can be made.

Existing AOMC facilities at Cape Canaveral will, in general, be shared by the Army and NASA to assure that the requirements of each are met. The Pershing and Saturn complexes now under construction will be assigned respectively to the Army and NASA.

This plan provides for the Army to grant to NASA a long-term nonrevocable, and renewable use permit for the agreed-upon Redstone Arsenal land and facilities.

The plan provides for transfer to NASA or retention by the Army of equipment and inventories as appropriate in the particular case. In general, the plan will provide the transferred organization with equipment and supplies it requires to maintain its capability. At the same time the plan provides for retention by the Army of equipment related primarily to Army weapons system and of a share of common-use equipment and inventories. Teams of NASA-Army people will effectuate this concept under agreed-upon criteria. The equipment and inventories agreed upon for transfer to NASA will be transferred on a nonreimbursable basis.

The plan contemplates the transfer to NASA of the personnel of the Development Operations Division effective July 1, 1960. Between the time of the Executive order issuance and July 1, 1960, a direct planning and technical relationship will exist between NASA and the Development Operations Division to permit sound development of transitional arrangements.

Transfer of supporting personnel would largely occur on or before July 1, 1960. Each service area would, however, be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as NASA develops its staffing, systems, and procedures, with complete transition by January 1, 1961. In general, the phasing of responsibility for a service area will coincide with the transfer of the bulk of the personnel.

Funding of ongoing programs in 1960 will continue to flow from present sources for the balance of 1960, except that the unobligated funds and the unexpended funds for major contracts in the Saturn program will be transferred to NASA as of the date of the Executive order.

The plan contemplates full assumption by NASA of managerial and funding responsibilities and functions on July 1, 1960. Effective with fiscal year 1961, NASA will obtain on a reimbursable basis, the services to be provided by the Army. Work on military weapons systems by NASA for the Army will also be on a reimbursable basis.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

The enactment of the joint resolution will not involve the expenditure of additional Federal funds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A quorum being present, the committee favorably reported the joint resolution, as amended, by unanimous vote and recommends its enactment.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army favor enactment of the joint resolution, as indicated by the following letters:

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR,
Washington, D.C., February 1, 1960.

In reply refer to AC:JL:709.

Mr. CHARLES F. DUCANDER,
Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Committee on Science and Astronautics, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR Mr. DUCANDER: We were pleased to have your letter dated January 23, 1960, requesting the views and recommendations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with regard to House Joint Resolution 567, to effect immediately the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Expeditious action on House Joint Resolution 567 would be of material benefit to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the space exploration program for which it is responsible. The transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to NASA involves the transfer of a considerable number of scientific, technical, and support personnel. Confirmation that the transfer will take effect as proposed in House Joint Resolution 567 will permit the identification of supporting personnel, the facilities to house them, and the resolution of a number of other organizational and personnel problems that are necessarily involved in such a plan.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES P. GLEASON,
Assistant Administrator for Congressional Relations.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D.C., February 4, 1960.

Hon. OVERTON BROOKS
*Chairman, Committee on Science and Astronautics,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR Mr. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to House Joint Resolution 567, 86th Congress, a resolution to effect immediately the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

This resolution would give early congressional approval to the transfer plan submitted by the President to the Congress for the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Since the apparent purpose of House Joint Resolution 567 is to give early congressional approval to the transfer plan submitted by the President and since it is not intended to interfere by forced accelera-

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tion with the orderly transition planned for July 1, 1960, the Department of the Army, on behalf of the Department of Defense, expresses no objection to the adoption of the resolution.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

This report has not been coordinated with the Bureau of the Budget because of the committee request that submission of the report be not delayed pending such coordination

Sincerely yours,

WILBER M. BRUCKER,
Secretary of the Army.

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