

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1964

HEARINGS BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

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PART 5 PROCUREMENT

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It is up to you and those who work with you to see to it that this money is well spent and that this program moves along as rapidly and as efficiently as possible.

We wish you good luck.

Thank you for your appearance.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1963.

AIR FORCE PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

WITNESSES

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LT. COL. FRANK J. JAEGER, DIRECTORATE OF COMMAND CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS
MAJ. GEN. JACK G. MERRELL, DIRECTOR OF BUDGET, U.S. AIR FORCE
BRIG. GEN. W. E. CARTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BUDGET

Mr. MAHON. At this time we shall begin an examination of the Air Force's procurement budget for the fiscal year 1964.

Mr. Secretary, we are pleased to have you before us along with your associates.

We shall now plunge into this arduous task of undertaking to get a better comprehension of why you are requesting so many billions of dollars for procurement. We want to economize in the defense budget as much as we safely can in the public interest. We hope people in the Air Force on the top and at the bottom levels and all the area between are trying to figure out ways to get more for the tax dollar.

DISMANTLING OF JUPITER AND THOR MISSILE SITES

Mr. SHEPPARD. I wish you would discuss for the benefit of the committee your specific programs for the dismantling of the JUPITER and the THOR squadrons and what use you propose to make of these missiles when they have been removed from the active missile inventory.

General GERRITY. With respect to the JUPITER program, these missiles have been taken out of operational status and have been dismantled. We have looked hard and have not been able to find any requirement for the missiles themselves.

We have been able to apply some of the excess material to certain research needs. This includes some of the ground support equipment and some of the components of the missiles. Some of the complete missiles themselves have been requested by the Army and NASA for research studies, but I do not mean to infer they will be using them for any firings.

Mr. FORD. May we have one in a public park back home.

General GERRITY. There may be some of that, but we are not returning any missile airframes of the JUPITER category from Europe.

Mr. FLOOD. I suggested in front of my American Legion Post there be one.

Mr. SHEPPARD. In other words, insofar as you know at the present time, they have ceased to have military value as such, outside of the recapture of some potential within the missile itself?

General GERRITY. That is correct, sir.

If I may proceed with the story on the THOR missile, the British have now taken the first squadron out of operation. The last squadron will come out of operational status in August of this year. We have found some limited application for the THOR missile for space booster shots.

We have already taken 15 of these missiles that have become excess to the program and have entered them into a modification program for that purpose.

We must make extensive modifications to the missiles but we will be able to realize some limited value out of our original investment.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Cannibalizing what you have?

General GERRITY. By extensively modifying.

Mr. FLOOD. Will the chairman yield?

Mr. SHEPPARD. Yes.

Mr. FLOOD. I would suggest, as well, Mr. Ford, that looking toward the day when the Air Force will achieve its first victory over West Point in a football game, they take one of these JUPITERS as the first complete victory of the Air Force over the Army and earmark it for that future date.

General, I am just wondering what is the peculiar, special, and significant and distinct thing about the THOR missile which would argue that 15 at least be modified even at considerable expense for some other purpose?

Under no circumstances is there any value in the JUPITER for any purpose at all except for garbage?

General GERRITY. The reason for that, sir, is not quality as much as quantity. I had not completed my story on the THOR and if you will permit me to proceed—

Mr. FLOOD. General, yes, I will permit you. I have been listening to this since you were a bird colonel.

General GERRITY. Yes, sir.

— We have not yet found a requirement for space booster purposes for the entire quantity of some 64 THORS that became available through the closeout of the program.

Mr. FLOOD. I understand you have at least found a use for 15 THORS at considerable expense for perhaps some purpose, but yet of the JUPITERS you have found no use, or any purpose for them whatsoever.

General GERRITY. Let me continue, sir.

Mr. FLOOD. Even though you are striving mightily to find some use for the remaining THORS, why do you not stop at this point on the THORS and utilize half of the JUPITERS?

General GERRITY. Sir, the reason is very simple.

Mr. FLOOD. That is the question.

General GERRITY. Since we do not have a quantitative requirement for all of them—

Mr. FLOOD. What does that mean?

General GERRITY. In terms of total numbers.

Mr. FLOOD. How many JUPITERS did you take out of Turkey?

— General GERRITY. Fifteen out of Turkey and thirty out of Italy.

Mr. FLOOD. That is 45. See how clever I am?

How many THORS in England?

General GERRITY. There is a total of 64 or 65.

Mr. ANDREWS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLOOD. Yes.

Mr. ANDREWS. Who developed the JUPITER?

Mr. FLOOD. Now, that is the unkindest cut of all. I was reserving that for my coup de grace.

You have 45 JUPITERS that you are going to throw in the garbage heap and you have 60-plus THORS that you are straining your bowels to do something with.

General GERRITY. We have experience on the THOR missile in using it as a space booster.

Mr. FLOOD. Did you ever try the JUPITER?

General GERRITY. The JUPITER has been tried in the past but we have more experience on the THOR and we wind up with a net reduction in cost, as opposed to buying new THORS as space boosters.

We hope we will be able to find a use for additional THOR missiles.

Mr. FLOOD. But no use for even one JUPITER for any purpose?

General GERRITY. There are many factors, sir, including the lack of pads, that are adapted for that purpose at the Pacific Missile Range where we are doing most of this firing. We have launch facilities for the THOR but do not have launch facilities for the JUPITER.

Mr. FLOOD. Now we come back to my original question: You remember every man present on this subcommittee knows quite a good deal about the THOR versus the JUPITER and if I might pour out an abundance of caution, maybe this is something you would like to withdraw—what is the marked difference between both of these

pigeons? What is so marked that without further consideration at all you would turn thumbs down on the JUPITER without war, but proceed with a side business to utilize the last remnant of the last limping THOR? What is the marked physical distinction which would rush you into this conclusion?

General GERRITY. Mr. Flood, I do not recall any marked difference.

Mr. FLOOD. Of course there is not.

General GERRITY. I would have to furnish any specific difference.

Mr. FLOOD. You would; you would have to look long and hard and lovingly to come up with one point, which is what this subcommittee tried to make before you got into THOR at all.

Mr. FORD. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLOOD. Indeed.

Mr. FORD. The cost of these modifications will come out of this part of the budget? Who will finance them and out of where?

General GERRITY. The space programs involved will finance the cost of modification as individual customers of the program.

Mr. FORD. In other words, if NASA wants THOR's and/or JUPITER's taken from these various locations, will they reimburse the Air Force?

General GERRITY. They will reimburse the Air Force, yes, sir.

Mr. FORD. Where will that money go? Will it go to the general fund or will it be a transfer or what will be the process?

General GERRITY. It would be reimbursed to the Air Force to pay for the modification program. The original acquisition cost of the missile will not be reimbursed; only the cost of the modification to make it a space booster.

Mr. FORD. Who paid to bring them back?

General MERRELL. If I may, those missiles are MAP owned, so if any money were to be reimbursed for the missiles themselves it would go back to the Treasury of the United States. Modification of these missiles comes out of the R. & D. account and if we, in effect, sell them to NASA, the R. & D. account will be reimbursed for the amount of money required to modify the missile to make it a space booster.

Mr. FORD. Do we have a precise plan worked out for these 15 THOR'S? Do you have a plan worked out for what you are going to do with them? Who is going to pay for the transportation costs? Who is going to pay for the modifications and out of what accounts? Is there a plan that is pretty precise or is it a plan that is just in the minds of a committee?

General GERRITY. It is a plan, sir, but I would not guarantee its preciseness. We think we foresee at least that many needs in terms of space boosters of that category but beyond that we cannot see very clearly.

Mr. FORD. I think the committee would be interested in having some detail as soon as a plan is firmed up, including the method of financing the modifications and what you intend to do with them.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Chairman, I submit that the Air Force was completely derelict—I use the term advisedly—in proceeding to do anything with this inventory of THOR missiles without, in some way, having first brought it to the attention of this subcommittee, or one of the congressional subcommittees, but certainly this one because here was born the controversy.

Many members of this subcommittee, General, were and still are of the opinion that the classical example of duplication and waste of the period, even up to date, perhaps, was the persistence and insistence of the Air Force in giving birth to and producing THOR at the time, and under the circumstances.

There is no doubt in the minds of some of us that this was a shocking example of interservice rivalry when the Army boys came up with this artillery piece that you could not possibly permit this to go on without challenge, which you did. Extensive hearings were held and efforts were made to stop you from doing that and you could not because you were flying high at that time. That record being clear and very clear, it occurs to me that when the time came to remove JUPITER and THOR, out of an abundance of caution and for no other reason—Euripides would love the title—before you presided at the requiem for JUPITER, you would have brought it to the attention of the committee, I would think.

General GERRITY. Mr. Flood, I think this was a matter well coordinated and cleared. Questions were asked of all agencies and customers as to requirements before a decision was made.

Mr. FLOOD. I meant the subcommittee, General.

General GERRITY. Mr. Flood, I think it would be certainly academic at this time to argue the merits of something that was long ago decided in terms of the programs themselves, the initiation of the programs.

I believe that we are acting prudently in recapturing and salvaging out of this missile program the material for productive use.

Mr. FLOOD. I hasten to embrace you and commend you for your assiduousness for what you are now doing for the program, but I now come back to the question: Why did you not at least have one of your carrier pigeons drop by and say, "In case you are interested, we are about to scramble JUPITER."

We knew nothing about it until this second, this afternoon, as to what you actually have done with JUPITER.

A couple of weeks ago we heard you were going to do something but we had nothing specific as to how you were breaking it up.

General GERRITY. I am sorry, Mr. Flood. I thought the committee had already been informed of this general intention by the Secretary of Defense in his testimony.

Mr. FLOOD. We knew about the general intention of what was going to be done with JUPITER and THOR, but I raised the question in January and now that that is about to happen, I would like a detailed report to this subcommittee as to what disposition you are going to make of the THORS in England and the JUPITERS in Italy, and the JUPITERS in Turkey. Subsequently, about a month later, we were told that THOR was going to be utilized to some extent by NASA and somebody else for space booster-shooting but that no conclusion had been reached as to the JUPITER, although they were looking very hard.

Today, another month later, I find out that this conclusion had been reached, or exercised at that time and we were not apprised of it and you are simply going to scrap the JUPITER and you have half a THOR posted.

This is not obsolete

By the way, did NASA twist your arm and insist they get THOR instead of JUPITER?

General GERRITY. I know of no such circumstances.

Mr. FLOOD. I would think not.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Chairman, may I?

Mr. SHEPPARD. Certainly.

Mr. MAHON. Did NASA participate in the decision to select THOR rather than JUPITER?

General GERRITY. It is my understanding that NASA, as well as Air Force agencies and the Department of Defense, were queried on requirements before we made our decision.

Mr. MAHON. Who made the decision?

Mr. FLOOD. That is not responsive, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MAHON. Who made the decision to use the THOR rather than the JUPITER for spacework? If you do not know, be sure to get it and put it in the record at this point.

General GERRITY. I will do that.

(The desired information is classified and has been furnished to the committee.)

Mr. SHEPPARD. I have one final question I would like to have determined for the benefit of the record.

General, are you programming funds for either JUPITER or THOR in this appropriation or in any other appropriation for fiscal year 1964? If so, in what amount and for what purpose?

General GERRITY. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman; I did not hear the question.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Read the question, Mr. Reporter.

(The question was read.)

General GERRITY. We are not programming any funds for that purpose.

PROCUREMENT OF THE ATLAS MISSILE

Mr. MAHON. Let us discuss now the ATLAS program.

What experience have you had with reference to the maintenance of the site activation schedule for the ATLAS missile sites?

General GERRITY. Mr. Chairman, we completed the ATLAS missile site activation program of the ATLAS-F in accordance with the original schedule that was completed in December of last year. The activation program in that particular missile was, I think, eminently successful.

Mr. MAHON. Will this budget complete the ATLAS program except for the training missiles which might be required on an annual basis?

General GERRITY. The training missiles, as well as some up-date or modification funds, will be required in subsequent years.

PROCUREMENT OF THE TITAN MISSILE

Mr. MAHON. What is your experience with slippage in site activation work on the TITAN system?

General GERRITY. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, we did have some slippage in the TITAN I program. However, the entire program was completed essentially on the original schedule.