

ponent of equal status with the other Services and there is no different situation than the Army or the Navy. It must come forward and justify projects which it wants with just as much support and validity as the other agencies do theirs.

Third, we provided that under unusual circumstances an exception could be made and development assigned to a Service other than the Air Force.

In addition, there is a fourth safeguard. Like all other research and development programs under single management in the Department of Defense, the space programs in their processes of development, research, testing and engineering are under the continuous direction and control of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering who will maintain close program review.

We believe that these four safeguards, the first retained by the Services and the remaining three vested in the Secretary of Defense, myself and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, will be adequate to preserve the overall effectiveness and capability of all of the Services.

The second criticism advanced against the proposed directive was that the assignment of responsibility for space research and development to the Air Force would encroach upon the operational responsibilities of the other Services. The directive as issued, however, does not deal in any way with the operational assignment of space systems. In his memorandum of transmittal of the new directive, the Secretary made it abundantly clear that the question of operational assignment was being reserved for future determination. Whether we will ever have space systems for operational use as weapons systems is something we cannot predict today, but if we do we will then face up to the problem of which Service has the competence, the greatest interest and use in the operational control, and at that time we will determine to what Service the operational assignment should go.

The CHAIRMAN. Isn't the ballistic missile a space system?

Secretary GILPATRIC. Well, Mr. Chairman, the ballistic missile programs are not within this directive. They were assigned before the directive was issued and no pre-existing assignments are to be affected by this directive.

In other words, the Polaris program of the Navy, the Atlas, Titan and Minuteman programs of the Air Force, all stay where they are.

Now, if we have additional ballistic missile programs in the future, in addition to those we now have, they will be assigned according to what we would then find to be the optimum performance capabilities of the respective Services.

Moreover, the Air Force is making certain organizational changes to make sure that it can adequately and fairly service the requirements of the Army and the Navy, as well as NASA, to the extent that the Air Force has responsibility for the development of space projects of interest or concern to its sister agencies. The Secretary of the Air Force will, when he is with you next Tuesday, describe in more detail the steps which the Air Force is taking to discharge the added responsibilities which will be imposed upon it as a result of the new directive.

There is one other point I should like to address myself to briefly, and that is the manner in which Secretary McNamara's decision was made. It is true that the decision on assignment responsibility for