

First, with respect to the seven-tube launcher, although we first met our requirement by an adaptation of the Navy seven-tube launcher, we started development at about the same time on an improved launcher. This development was successful and resulted in the provision of a technical data package thus permitting competitive procurement beginning in November 1965.

The XM-157/B launchers, most recently procured, are primarily for the Hueycobra. However, as I mentioned, tests are now underway which, if successful, will lead to the replacement of the XM-157/B with the Army-developed M-158.

With respect to the XM-159/C 19-tube launchers, Army development of an improved XM-160 launcher has not been as rapid as was the case of our development of the seven-tube launcher. We are now considering the advantages, economic and others, of purchasing the rights and drawings from Chromcraft for the XM-159/C launcher. Any determination in this respect will be in accordance with the ASPR provisions governing the acquisition of technical data.

The committee has asked to be advised of the status of a single triservice manager for rocket launchers. It is our feeling that such a management arrangement would be beneficial and on the 4th of June we recommended to the Department of Defense that this recommendation be approved.

I understand, as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense signed such a paper approving it just yesterday.

When approval is received, it is expected that a triservice manager's office can be established and staffed so that it will be operational and in a position to carry out a triservice launcher program in fiscal year 1970.

Thus far I have confined my discussion to the 2.75-inch rocket launcher. I should like now to address the 2.75-inch rocket itself.

The Army developed a requirement for the development of a low-speed Army aircraft weapon system providing high explosive air-to-ground area coverage in June 1963. The original 2.75-inch rocket had a 6-pound warhead which was not particularly efficient when used on ground area targets. As a result, a 10-pound warhead was developed and produced so as to increase its lethality; more recently a 17-pound warhead has gone into production.

Subsequent Navy and Air Force requirements for the 2.75-inch rocket system led to design and development of the current system for air-to-ground utilization by all three services on both low- and high-speed aircraft.

The Department of Defense, on November 11, 1965, directed the Army to assume executive management for the planning, direction, control, and acquisition of 2.75-inch rockets within the Defense Department. A triservice 2.75-inch rocket project was chartered in December 1965 and a project manager assigned. Initially this involved only Army-procured components common to the three services—primarily warheads and fuses. In November 1966 responsibility was broadened to include all components for the rocket. The research and development function remains the responsibility of the separate services.