

V.B.

When Wilson said we take the roles & mission from the Army & turn it over to the Air Force. V.B. had felt this would be the end of the Jupiter.

At a top conference in D.C. in Jan 57, an Air Force officer stated that if the Jupiter comes out on top technically, the Air Force had no use for the Jupiter, as they had their own missile.

Jup is a 1500 nautical mile missile capable of carrying an atomic warhead. This missile is important because the Russians now have a missile with a range of this that can cover all of western Europe. Sen. Gavin confirmed this before the Mahan Committee earlier this year.

The Redstone missile proved to be so effective that the Army was awarded the Jupiter. The Air Force was also awarded an ICBM & the Wilson memo gives the Roles & mission (use of the missile) to the Air Force & this upset the Army because the Air Force was to be the customer & since both the Army & Air Force was producing the Air Force would be partner to their own product.

Missile 27 (Jupiter C) was fired in Sept 1956 & went over 3000 miles.

March 1, 1957 the first real Jupiter was fired & it was 60% successful.

The Air Force promised to fire several tests before March 1, 1957 & they only attempted 1 flight of the Thor & it rose about 1 ft & exploded.

V.B. began his work in missiles at the age of 18.

V.B. said the Jupiter is superior to the Thor & he'd stake his reputation on this. V.B. did not like the Wilson memo at all. The Army from the Gen on down did not like the memo. He is convinced the everybody in the Army from Secty Brucker on down disliked the memo. Sen. Mahan's was terrifically disappointed over the memo.

V.B. knows that Wilson's motives were the clearest & purest.

When the memo came out, the Air Force said we'll take roles & missions & use the Jupiter along with the Thor. Wilson said that is bunk & the Air Force will cut your head off if you don't do something about it.

There were quite a few documents in Wilson's Considerations that was classified & later declassified.

When V.B. first read the Wilson memo, he was surprised that parts of it was not classified.



The ? of classification is something that is determined by the judgment of the man making a document.

When V.B. prepared the report on the missile 27 he was under the impression it would be made public to help the Army's position in being successful. It was ordered to be marked secret. V.B. is of the opinion that if the A7 had fired a missile 3000 miles, it would have been released immediately. Bricker told V.B. that he had a very special reason for having the M27 fired in Sept 1956 as originally scheduled, rather than wait until Oct 1956 as V.B. had wanted to wait.