

## Hush-Hush Arlington Job

# U.S. Weighs Form Of ICBM of '80s

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What intercontinental ballistic missile the United States should build for the 1980s is the subject of a quiet but intense study inside a "think factory" near the Pentagon.

A group of 15 weapons experts is reviewing everything from nuclear-powered, earth-skimming ICBMs to ones planted in the ocean bottom.

Motorists passing the place where this hush-hush work is going on—the Institute for Defense Analyses in Arlington near the south end of 14th Street Bridge—get no hint of secrecy from the looks of the 10-story white building with its long bands of arched windows.

And even if they stopped their cars and looked inside, all they would see—aside from some guards—are rather pedestrian looking offices and conference rooms. There are no white-coated scientists bending over smoking test tubes.

This is because IDA's designing of secret weapons is done on paper. The paperwork then goes over to the Pentagon where the leadership decides whether to turn the studies into hardware.

### Taylor Heads IDA

The new boss of IDA is Army Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and White House adviser. The job of IDA, he said in an interview, is "to find good people to work on important projects and get important results." Taylor receives \$49,000 a year as IDA president.

The new ICBM is one of these "important projects." The Defense Department, which supplies the money to run IDA, asked the nonprofit organization to take a hard look at ICBM ideas and pick out the ones that should be built.

Fred A. Payne took leave from the Marquardt Corp., where he was a vice president, to head the ICBM study. He formerly was a strategic weapons specialist in the Pentagon's research shop where he helped develop today's family



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GENERAL TAYLOR  
... new boss of IDA

of Minuteman, Titan and Polaris missiles.

Payne hopes to finish the ICBM study in about six months, handing in the group's recommendations by July 1967.

### A Hard Look

Although IDA will be headquarters, Payne and his colleagues will swing through military commands and aerospace firms to take a hard, engineering look at all reasonable proposals for a new ICBM.

"We're taking an across-the-board look," Payne said in an interview. His group will not design a new missile but evaluate the dozens already on sketch pads and backed by engineering data.

The Pentagon also is working on improving the present family of missiles by putting them in sites harder to destroy and adding penetration devices so they can get through enemy defenses. The result will be what is called

the "ICM"—improved capability missile. Minuteman 3, with a warhead which maneuvers to fool the defense, is in this category.

The proposals for a new ICBM have survivability and penetration as the common denominator. Keeping an ICBM moving, and thus more difficult for an enemy striking first to hit, is one basic concept. ICBMs mounted on trucks, railroad cars and in the bellies of cargo airplanes are among the ideas.

### Undersea Missiles

Burying missiles in the bottom of the ocean, the Great Lakes or the Scandinavian fjords is another concept. One firm has studied anchoring missiles in canisters just beneath the surface of the sea. Such submerged missiles could survive any attack save a direct hit, the theory goes, and could be fired on a radio command from shore.

Another idea is to use nuclear propulsion in a missile that would skim the surface of the earth, escaping detection by the enemy's antimissile network.

The Payne committee will decide whether technology makes some of these projects worth pursuing now, or whether the more promising route is to stick with the basic Minuteman technique of powerful missiles standing in concrete silos.

The Defense Department did not disclose how much money it is spending on IDA's study of new missiles. IDA's total budget for fiscal 1967 is \$11.4 million.

### Contract Figures

During House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee hearings earlier this year, Chairman George H. Mahon (D-Tex.) said IDA since its founding in 1955 has been awarded contracts totaling \$73.2 million. The fees on that work, he said, were about 5 per cent. This, "for a nonprofit corporation, is about the equivalent of a 10 per cent fee" for business firms which pay corporate taxes.