IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 21, 1960

NAVY AWARDS DESIGN CONTRACT FOR MISSILEER AIRCRAFT

The Navy announced today that the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, Santa Monica, California, has been selected as the contractor for the development of the MISSILEER, the launching aircraft for the EAGLE long range air-to-air guided missile. The design award to the contractor by the Bureau of Naval Weapons will be followed shortly by a development contract.

The MISSILEER aircraft will be powered by two TF3C-P-2 turbo-fan engines under development for the Navy by Pratt and Whitney, a division of United Aircraft Corporation.

The EAGLE-MISSILEER weapon system employs the concept of building long range and high performance into the missile, rather than into the launching aircraft.

Rear Admiral P.D. Stroop, USN, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons, stated that this concept produces a significant increase in overall weapon system range and effectiveness and permits design of a more efficient launching aircraft with the advantages of increased fire power, endurance and versatility.

Development of the EAGLE missile and its associated fire control system is already underway. The Bendix Corporation was selected as the prime contractor for this equipment in December 1958.

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