

# NEWS RELEASE

## PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D. C.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 1962

NO. 2064-62  
OXford 53201/53176

### UNIFORM SYSTEM OF DESIGNATING ROCKETS, GUIDED MISSILES ESTABLISHED

A Department of Defense uniform system of designating rockets and guided missiles was announced today.

The system, explained in detail in Directive 4000.20, will assign a letter-number code consisting of three letters, a number and a letter to each existing or future rocket or guided missile with a combat or combat-related mission. Designators will be assigned to about 65 existing kinds of rockets and missiles, supplanting those assigned under previous systems. Popular names associated with existing guided missiles and rockets will be retained.

Space vehicles are not covered by the Directive. Also excluded are rocket systems designed for line-of-sight ground fire against ground targets, and naval torpedoes.

A typical designator for guided missiles or rockets under the new system will consist of five digits:

1. A letter indicating either the environment from which it is to be launched (if it is operational), such as underwater, from the air, etc., or if it is still in the experimental or test stage, a letter indicating its status.
2. A letter denoting its mission, such as underwater attack, aerial interception, decoy, etc.
3. A letter designating the type of vehicle -- either a guided missile, rocket or a probe. Guided missiles are defined as vehicles capable of being controlled either remotely or from within. Rockets are vehicles whose flight path or trajectory cannot be changed after launch. A probe is an instrumented vehicle used to penetrate the aerospace environment and report back information (outer space probes are not covered under this definition).
4. A number identifying different basic designs. For example, a Number 2 in a designator for an underwater-to-underwater guided missile would indicate the second design for that missile.
5. A letter used to indicate major modifications to a basic design.

The Air Force has been given the responsibility of maintaining the designation system, assigning designators for all present and future rockets and missiles, and listing popular names for all vehicles. The service developing a missile or rocket will name it after coordination with the other military services to avoid duplication.

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(Copies of Directive available at Defense News Branch, Room 2E-757.)