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Pentagon to Fire Heavy Satellites, Animals in Some

Program of Monthly Shots Through '59 is Aimed at Putting  
Man in Space -- Tests Set for Coast

Air Force Looks Ultimately to Launching of a 5-Ton  
Vehicle with Atlas

-- by John W. Finney  
Special to the N.Y.T.

Washington, D. C, Dec. 3--The Defense Dept announced today  
a long-range satellite program aimed at placing mice,  
monkeys, then man in space.

The first satellite in the program, known as Project Discoverer,  
is scheduled to be launched within the next month from the  
Vandenberg AFB, near Santa Maria, Calif.

Satellite launchings will be attempted as frequently as once  
a month, with the satellites becoming progressively bigger.  
They are expected to reach weights of up to five tons after  
the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile becomes available  
for satellite firings in about a year.

For the first time attempts will be made to put instruments  
and animals into orbit and to bring them safely back to earth.

#### 24 Launchings a Year

The Defense Dept and the new NASA together will be launching  
up to 24 space probes a year from the East and West coasts  
starting in 1959.

The emphasis of the eight to twelve probes planned by the  
space agency will be on acquiring more fundamental knowledge  
about space.

The Defense Department will be seeking basic information  
for use in future practical satellites, such as reconnaissance and  
early-warning satellites, navigational communications and  
weather satellites, and recoverable space capsules.

Plans for Project Discoverer were announced by the Defense  
Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency in a statement  
at a news conference held by Roy W. Johnson, agency director.  
The project will be carried out by the AF under the agency's  
direction.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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