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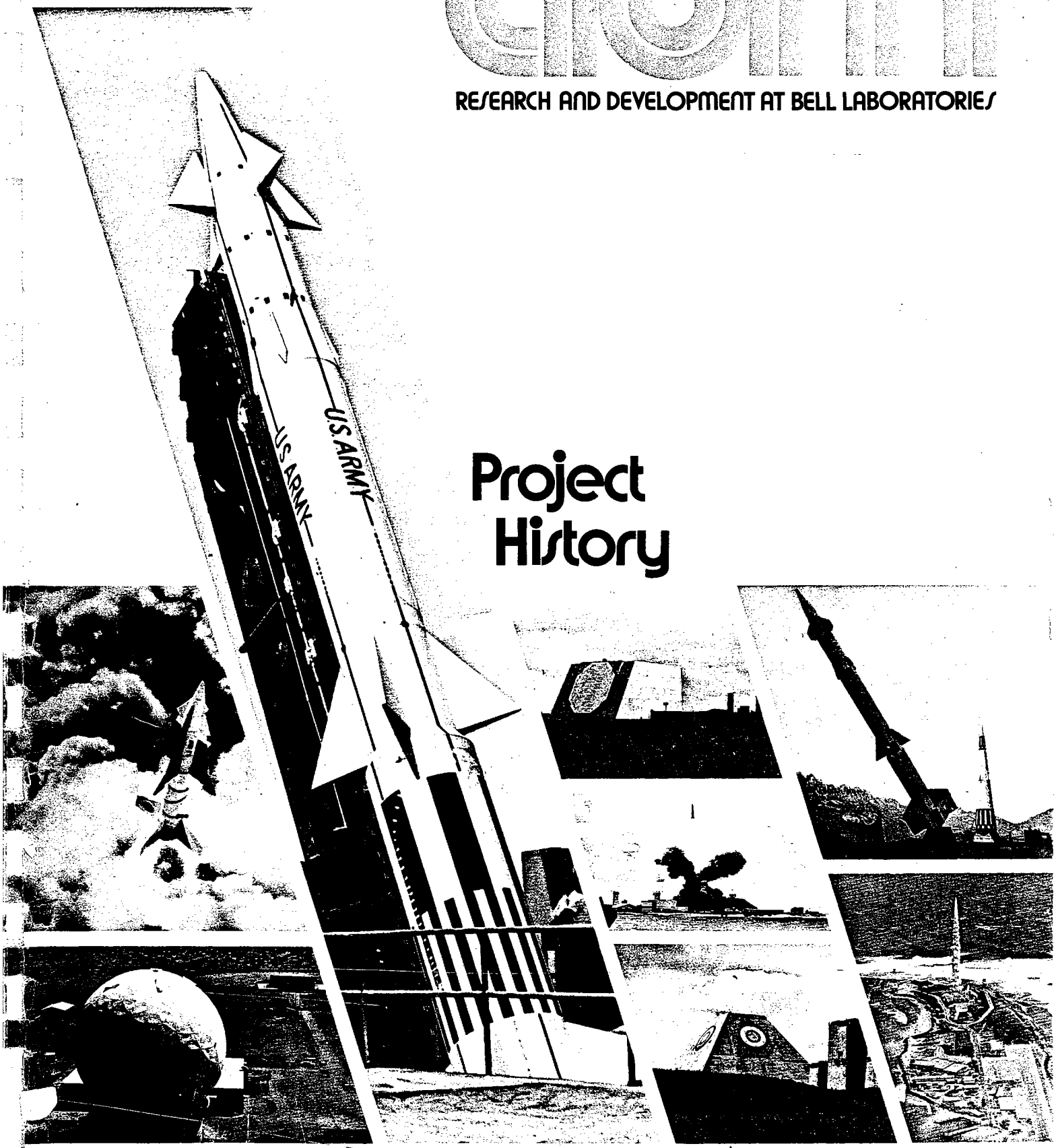
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AT BELL LABORATORIES

Project History



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Project History

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PREFACE

In March 1955, Col. M. B. Chatfield of the Army Ordnance Missile Defense Command at Redstone Arsenal asked Bell Laboratories to carry out an 18-month study of defense against future air threats including Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), then in early development in the United States. This history begins with that study and highlights the evolution of ABM defense during the ensuing twenty years that led to a tactical operating ABM defense system at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

It covers the important decisions, changing requirements, and major innovative development steps taken to meet the changing threat. The research and development programs associated with each major ABM system are discussed together with the principal radar, missile, and computer subsystems. The report concludes with a summary of lessons learned with respect to managing such programs in the future and includes a comprehensive bibliography of supporting reference material.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS (Continued)

Part I. HISTORY OF ABM DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

Part II. MAJOR SYSTEMS AND SUBSYSTEMS

Chapter 1. NIKE-ZEUS System

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 1. NIKE-ZEUS System (Continued)

Chapter 2. NIKE-X System

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 2. NIKE-X System (Continued)

Chapter 3. SENTINEL System

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 4. SAFEGUARD System

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 5. SAFEGUARD System Evaluation

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 5. SAFEGUARD System Evaluation (Continued)

Chapter 6. Nuclear Vulnerability and Hardening

Chapter 7. Missile Site Radar

CONTENTS (Continued)

Chapter 7. Missile Site Radar (Continued)

Chapter 8. Perimeter Acquisition Radar

Chapter 9. SPRINT Missile Subsystem

Chapter 10. SPARTAN Missile Subsystem

Chapter 11. Data Processing System

Chapter 11. Data Processing System (Continued)

Chapter 12. Ballistic Missile Defense Center

Part III. MANAGEMENT AND OVERALL APPROACH

CONTENTS (Continued)

Part IV. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued)

ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued)

ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued)

ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued)

TABLES