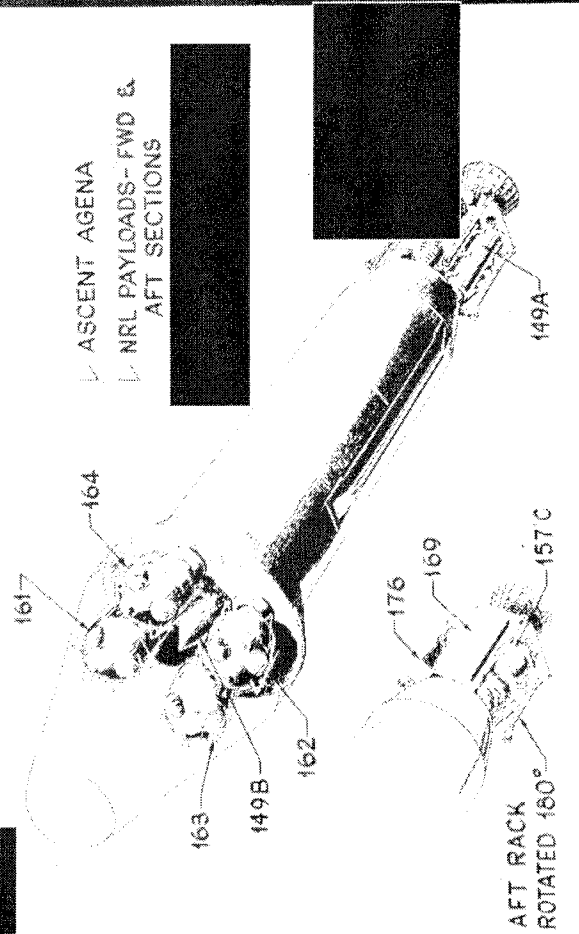


200700199-02



# AFTRACK (1960 - 1965)

## VEHICLE CONFIGURATION - 2706



30 AFTRACK payloads with colorful names like:  
**TAKI, WILD BILL, TEXAS PINT, TOPSOC, GRAPE JUICE, NEW JERSEY, PLYMOUTH ROCK, VINO, LONG JOHN, HAYLOFT, OPPORKNOCKITY, SQUARE TWENTY**

### AFTRACK: Beginnings

Requirements for a small, inexpensive payload that could be carried on the aftrack of the AGENA vehicle resulted from concerns in the late 1950's that the Soviets might try to track the DISCOVERER (CORONA) vehicles and even interfere with the AGENA's S-band beacon. This concept of a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) payload (light, simple, minimal development time) caught on rapidly.

The first AFTRACK ELINT payload - SOCTOP, flew aboard the much heralded DISCOVERER XIII, on 10 August 1960 and over the next 5 years the AFTRACK family of SIGINT collectors was successful in collecting against a variety of different missions.

Tied to their CORONA-AGENA host these AFTRACK missions likewise lasted for a few days in the early years, to several weeks in the 1965 timeframe