



THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

June 1959

The First Official Missile Mail

Your receipt of this letter marks an historic milestone in the use of guided missiles for communications between the peoples of the earth.

It represents, too, the close cooperation of Secretary of Defense McElroy, the Department of Defense, and the Post Office Department in utilizing scientific advances for peaceful purposes.

A limited number of letters identical to this one were placed in the Regulus I Training Guided Missile on the guided missile submarine USS BARBERO (SSG-317) in this First Official Missile Mail experiment of the United States Post Office Department.

The missile was then flown at near the speed of sound from international waters of the Atlantic Ocean by the USS BARBERO while on a regular training mission.

After the Regulus I reached its destination, the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Mayport, Florida, near Jacksonville, this letter was cancelled and forwarded to you as a significant philatelic souvenir.

The great progress being made in guided missilery will be utilized in every practical way in the delivery of the United States mail. You can be certain that the Post Office Department will continue to cooperate with the Defense Department to achieve this objective.

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