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MDR: 13-M-4609

**COVERING BRIEF**

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 26 2014

**TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING**

**FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC AND SPACE SYSTEMS**

18 MAR 1974

**PURPOSE:** (U) The objective of this memorandum is to forcefully remind the Air Force not to delay their LWIR cryogenic cooler and other space surveillance technology programs and to evaluate the ELMS progress prior to the apportionment reviews.

**DISCUSSION:** Space surveillance is a critical component of our space defense RDT&E program and is fundamental to the other two components, satellite systems survivability and an anti-satellite (ASAT) capability. LWIR technology is an important factor in our surveillance planning and could provide the most cost-effective means to achieve our goals in the long run. Before we can demonstrate a space-based LWIR surveillance system, a critical need is to develop a long life (about 30,000 hour), closed cycle, cryogenic cooler capability (temperatures down to 8-15°K).

We are concerned about the health of the ELMS program. In January, the Air Force formally recognized a deficit of \$3.5 million in the ELMS FY 1974 funds. To make up this deficit, money was "borrowed" from the FY 1974 funds of both the DSP and the space surveillance technology, with the understanding that these funds would be repaid in FY 1975. (One effect was to cause a five-month delay in the LWIR surveillance technology program). This deficit could be indicative of serious problems in the management of ELMS. We feel that the Air Force should conduct a thorough review and have the results available for us at apportionment.

The space surveillance RDT&E program should not be delayed in order to make ELMS get well. We recommend that you sign the memorandum at Attachment 1 to direct the Air Force's attention to this priority and to install a sense of urgency into the cryo cooler program. It also asks them to review the ELMS program to reveal whether this \$3.5 million cost growth is not symptomatic of more serious trouble in the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That you sign Attachment 1.

DDR&E  
PDDR&E  
DD/S&SS  
M&RS  
AD (S&AS)

OAD(S&AS)/LC Winter [redacted] 8 Mar 74

(66) 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Rewritten/DD/S&SS/Mr. Walsh/8 & 12 Mar 74

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SUBJECT: GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE OF  
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