

#117

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102-14(b)

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WMB  
Date: 15 FEB 2016

8 JUN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR LT. GENERAL CHARLES A. GABRIEL, AF/XO

SUBJECT: Mission Element Need Statement, Satellite Operations Capability (U)

MERS-2  
chron  
author

(U) The draft MENS forwarded in June 1979 for comment is a very well constructed document. The following comments are offered, referenced to the various sections in the MENS:

~~(S)~~ II. Threat: We need to add one more threat - Intelligence Collection - which is a major Soviet effort and, if successful, can result in decreased effectiveness and increased vulnerability of our space systems.

~~(S)~~ I believe the threats can be prioritized as follows: (1) [redacted] (2) [redacted] (3) [redacted] (4) [redacted] and (5), perhaps, [redacted]. Suggest you do not delete what you have, but highlight the more important military threats either by reordering in priority or underlining important sentences so the reader will understand the relative importance to a Satellite Operations Capability.

~~(S)~~ You should explain in more detail what [redacted] would be [redacted] the consequences. The writeup on [redacted] is inadequate. Let's expand if it is a viable threat.

IV. Assessment, A. Deficiencies:

~~(S)~~ Vulnerability must be expanded if [redacted] is indeed a threat. Under the threat section, [redacted] is discussed extensively, yet here in this section it is treated minimally. Also, if [redacted] is a problem, it should be added.

(U) Under Natural Disasters the airplane landing on the STC is not convincing, and hurts our credibility. Put it in as an after thought, or think of a more probable accident. Accidental fires may be a greater hazard.

IV. ASSESSMENT, B. Technological Opportunity:

(U) This section could be stronger. Opportunities exist to (1) avoid single node and enhance space system survivability; (2) provide more

OSD 3.3(b)(2), (4), (8)

~~Classified by DUSD(SSS).  
Review on 7 June 1985.~~

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Chief, Declass Div, D. H. WMB

13-M-4716



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capability (bird tending); (3) consolidate new ground stations; and, (4) provide for growth (but start small). Discuss ~~SS~~ and other new programs where ground stations can be incorporated in SOC.

I'll be glad to discuss my comments with you further at your convenience. Suggest you start incorporating these comments now - even though there may be more to follow from other offices.

(SIGNED)

Marvin C. Atkins  
Director  
Offensive & Space Systems

 OD(OSS)  
3E139 x  7 June 79

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 02 FEB 2016 Authority: EO 13526  
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Declassify in Part: X  
Reason: 3, 3(b)(2), (4), (8) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)  
MDR: 13 -M- 4716

05D 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

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