

#43

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-5 JUN 1981 1307



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

9 JUN 1981  
SECDEF HAS SEI

RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 25 2016

5 JUN 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Space-Based Laser Development (U) - INFORMATION  
MEMORANDUM

(U) This is in response to your note on Mr. Allen's memorandum concerning space-based lasers, dated May 26, 1981 (Tab A).

(U) Mr. Carlucci transmitted our report on space-based lasers to the Congress on May 13. His cover letter is attached at Tab B. It was concluded that it is premature to begin system development until uncertainties in technical capability and mission utility are reduced. I do not anticipate that we should commit to a system development for a few years. However, I will review the situation each year very carefully. By the close of FY 1982, I will review for you the state of technology and our further assessments of potential mission utility.

(U) The degree to which we should push for earliest development of space-based laser weapons must be guided not only by technical feasibility, but also our policy with respect to space warfare. Accordingly, I have asked USD(Policy) to address this question (Tab C). *When we use space for warfare purposes will depend largely*

(U) I therefore expect that from both a policy and a research and engineering viewpoint, we will be in a better position by the end of FY 1982 to review the appropriate timing for commitment to system development.

(U) I do not believe a written reply to Mr. Allen's memorandum is required; however, you may wish to contact him by phone and apprise him of the above.

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

*Mark the Secretary*

*Don't Technical Feasibility  
had like to know closer the (att)  
Assess the end of FY  
if in any way possible*

Attachments

Prepared by: [Redacted]

Classified by: DODI 5210.61, 7Apr77  
Review on: 4 June 1987

~~REGRADE CONFIDENTIAL WHEN  
SEPARATED FROM ATTACHMENTS~~

~~SECRET~~

13-M-4742

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS 5 U.S.C. § 552  
Date: 25 FEB 2016 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: \_\_\_\_\_ Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: X  
Reason: 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) + 3.3(b)(6)  
MDR: 13 -M- 4742

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Memo For DUSD (S+TNF) 11 June 81

T.K. JONES


PLZ prepare memo to SEC DEF  
note for De Delauer's signature.

De. Delauer's note to you:

"THIS is a piece of a larger  
question of whether or not  
we should or shouldn't  
use space for war fighting.  
Could keep it as a sanctuary."

PLZ coordinate response  
with De WADE.

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: FEB 25 2016

  
Lt. Colonel, USA  
Executive Assistant  
to USDRE

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

OSD # 14649  
R&E # 812595

TAB B

~~SECRET~~

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WMS  
Date: FEB 25 2016

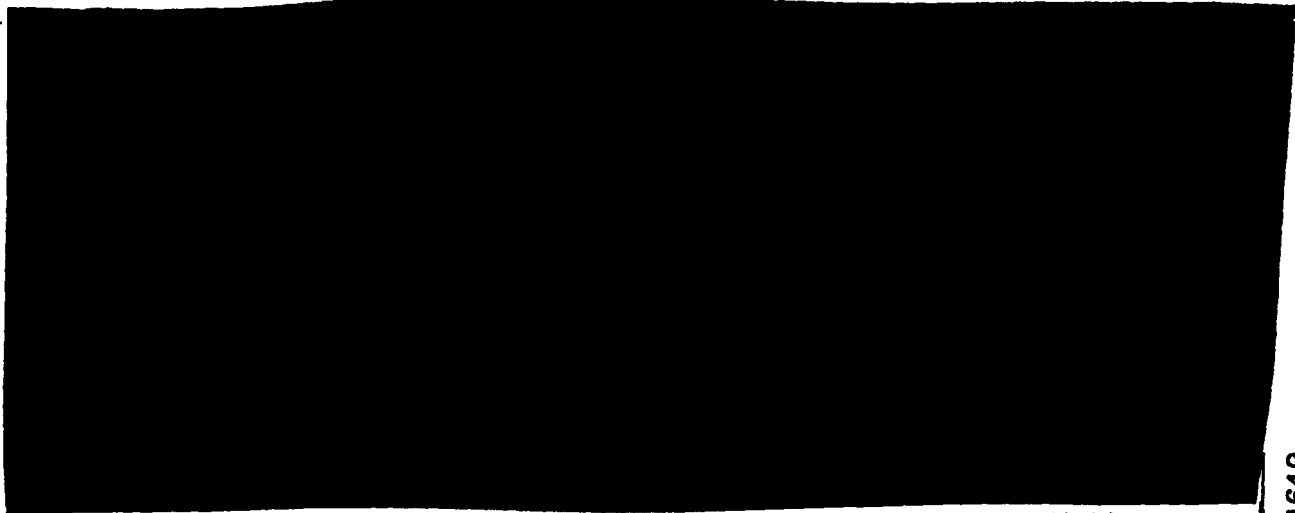
23 JUN 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Space for Warfighting Purposes (U) - INFORMATION  
MEMORANDUM

(U) This is in response to your note on "space for warfighting purposes" on my memorandum concerning space-based laser development, dated 5 June, 1981 (Tab A).

(S) As far as space-based lasers are concerned, I will certainly answer the question of technical feasibility sooner than the end of FY82 if I possibly can. There are a number of significant uncertainties which require measurements and thorough analysis, so I am not optimistic about our ability to do so. Also, I feel that the technology issues are pieces of larger questions involving weapon system definition, lethality, countermeasures, cost effectiveness, and policy on using space for warfighting. We will give you the most complete picture we can and do so at the earliest opportunity.



Prepared by TD  
OUSDRAE(S&INF/DS)   
Director, DS  
DISTRIBUTION  
M&RS   
USDRE \_\_\_\_\_  
PUSDRE \_\_\_\_\_  
DUSD(S&INF) (HOLD) (CMK)  
OUSDRAE(DS) (HOLD) (CMK)  
LTC LAU (HOLD) (CMK)

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

JS 3.3(b)(6)

~~Classified by: DUSDRE(S&INF)~~  
~~Review on: 18 June 1991~~  
~~Reason: 2-301.c (5) & (6)~~

~~SECRET~~

C  
MAD  
#  
OSD # 14648  
RT 2505

This form must be completed and delivered to the Correspondence Control Section, OSD, Room 3A948,  
not later than 16 June 1981

DATE

9 June 1981

TO: CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL SECTION, OSD, ROOM 3A948

ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED (Copy attached).

X ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED BECAUSE DUSD(&STN) changed Action Officer's input to be more complete. While the thrust of SECDEF's question was directed at space-based laser technology, we are going to include the status of our conventional system, the miniature vehicle Interceptors. *The additional data is worthwhile info for SECDEF, and the delay is appropriate for gathering the data.*

THE EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION IS 22 June 1981

CCS CONTROL NUMBER  
x 14649

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION

TELEPHONE NUMBER

SD FORM 391  
1 AUG 81

ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: FEB 25 2016

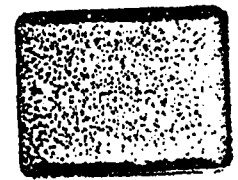
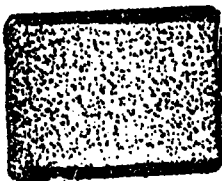
This form must be completed and delivered to the Correspondence Control Section, OSD, Room 3A948, not later than <u>16 June 1981</u>		DATE <u>9 June 1981</u>
TO: CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL SECTION, OSD, ROOM 3A948		
ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED (Copy attached).		
X ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED BECAUSE DUSD(&STN) changed Action Officer's input to be more complete. While the thrust of SECDEF's question was directed at space-based laser technology, we are going to include the status of our conventional system, the miniature vehicle interceptors. <i>The additional data is worthwhile info for SECDEF, and the delay is appropriate for gathering the data.</i>		
THE EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION IS <u>22 June 1981</u>		
CCS CONTROL NUMBER X 14649	SIGNATURE OF REPORTING INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION 	TELEPHONE NUMBER 

SD FORM 391  
1 AUG 61

ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

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Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: FEB 25 2016



~~SECRET~~

2 JWS  
2 1981

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROUTING SLIP		ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO	ACT COPY TO
TO	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE				MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
	SECRETARY OF DEFENSE				SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
	DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE				SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
	THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT				SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
	PROTOCOL				JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
	UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLICY				CHAIRMAN
✓	UNDER SECRETARY FOR RSCH & ENGR	✓			DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF
	ASD (Comptroller)				DEFENSE AGENCIES
	DASD (Administration)				DEF ADV RSCH PROJ AGENCY
	ASD (Comm, Command, Control & Intel)				DEFENSE AUDIOVISUAL AGENCY
	ASD (Health Affairs)				DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
	ASD (International Security Affairs)				DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY
	ASD (Manpower, Res Aff & Logistics)				DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
	ASD (Program Analysis & Evaluation)				DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
	ASD (Public Affairs)				DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY
	GENERAL COUNSEL				DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
	ATSD (Atomic Energy)				DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY
	ATSD (Legislative Affairs)				NSA/CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
	DUSD (Policy Review)				
	DIR, NET ASSESSMENT				

TYPE OF ACTION REQUIRED

<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY FOR SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY FOR DEP SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	COORDINATE REPLY WITH
✓	REPLY DIRECT (Fwd. cy of reply for Sec of Def records)	✓	ANSWER Sec Def Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROPRIATE ACTION		
<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION AND RETENTION		

REMARKS

8/25/81

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: FEB 25 2010

~~SECRET~~

(This form is unclassified when separated from classified documents)

TYPE OF ATTACHMENT

- ACTION COPY
- ADVANCE ACTION COPY
- INFORMATION COPY

ACTION DUE DATE (YYMMDD) 16 JUN 1981	ROUTING DATE (YYMMDD) 9 JUN 1981	OSD CONTROL NUMBER 14649
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RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

COVERING BRIEF

Prepared by [redacted]  
OUSDR&E(S&TNF/DS) [redacted]  
Director, DS [redacted]  
DISTRIBUTION [redacted]  
M&RS [redacted] ✓  
USDRE [redacted]  
PUSDRE [redacted]  
DUSD(S&TNF) (HOLD) [redacted] ((  
OUSDR&E(DS) (HOLD) [redacted] ((  
LTC LAU (HOLD) [redacted] ((

OSO 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

TO: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH  
AND ENGINEERING

FROM: DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (STRATEGIC AND THEATER  
NUCLEAR FORCES)

SIGNED  
T.H. Jones

PURPOSE: (U) To provide you with our answer for the SECDEF in  
response to a comment that he made on space warfighting.

DISCUSSION:

- o (U) The SECDEF made a comment on your memorandum to him on space-based laser development, wanting to know about the technical feasibility of space for warfighting sooner than the end of FY82 (Tab A).
- o (U) Your appended note mentioned that this is part of a larger question to include space policy and space as a sanctuary (Tab B).

JS 3.3(b)(6)



- o (U) You had previously asked us for some additional thoughts on the system issues, countermeasures, capabilities as a function of time, etc., and we will have a short white paper for you in a few days.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the memorandum at Tab C.

COORDINATION:

JTB 18 JUN 81  
\* DUSDRE(R&T)

DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 25 2016

Prepared by [redacted]:rp  
OUSDR&E(S&TNF/DS) [redacted]  
17 June 1981

Classified by: DUSDRE(S&TNF)  
Review on: 18 June 1991  
Reason: 2-301.c (5) & (6)

~~SECRET~~