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USDP-12

24 May 1982

Space-Based Laser

USD(P)

Issue: Should the Air Force restore Advanced Technology Development funds for the space-based laser (SBL) program?

Military Department:

Rationale:

- A multi-year SBL research and development program is being pursued by the DoD. The DoD Space Laser Plan (draft) addresses those critical technical and operational issues which must be resolved to support a decision whether or not to proceed to weapon system development. DARPA will address key technology areas to establish technical feasibility and the Air Force will address critical issues associated with applying the technology to weapon system development.
- The DoD Space Laser Plan calls for the expenditure of \$910M with funding provided by DARPA, Air Force and Army.
- The Plan is designed so as to permit an intermediate decision in 1984 and a final decision (to deploy or not to deploy) in FY-87. This plan has been briefed to members of Congress as part of the FY-83 approval process.
- Air Force SBL funding was zeroed for FY 84-85. Without Air Force funding, it will be impossible to meet the FY-84 and FY-87 milestones. Failure to meet these milestones could jeopardize the entire program and will almost certainly elicit strong reaction from the Congress.
- Alternative 2 would require Air Force to provide funding consistent with the DoD Space Laser Plan.

Cost Summary:

		Costs (FYDP \$ Millions)	
		FY-84	FY 84-88 Total
Estimated POM Resources (Alt 1)	- DARPA	\$129	\$625
	- AF	0	\$621
	- Army	\$ 4	\$ 20
Proposed Changes to POM Resources (Alt 2)	- AF	+\$ 37	+\$ 75

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Directed Energy Weapons
Issue Sponsor: USDR&E

Issue: (U) Are Directed Energy Weapons programs funded to provide mission capabilities?

Military Departments: (U) Air Force, Navy

Rationale: (U) The DoD Directed Energy Weapons Technology program is pursuing directed energy technology for a variety of potential military mission applications. Included are high energy lasers, particle beams, and high power microwaves.

(U) The Air Force has failed to fund the Space Laser Program in FY 84 & 85. This does not fulfill the Secretary of Defense's commitment to augment this program by \$50M per year during FY 82-87. This Air Force effort is essential in order to address system issues which must be addressed concurrently with the development of subsystem technology for the laser battle station. Deletion of the funding, as the Air Force POM has done, is inconsistent with the Space Laser Plan which is in final coordination in response to a request from the Congress. The HASC reduction action which may have precipitated the Air Force's action appears to be softening. Deferred FY 82 funds have been released.

(U) The Navy's Sea Lite generic surface-based air defense brassboard system demonstration has not been funded properly in the out years (FY 86-88) to recognize the program stretchout created by Carter administration reductions to this program in FY 80-81.

(S) The Air Force has reduced its non-space high energy laser program by \$5M in FY 84 and by \$10-15M in each of the out years. This reduction will severely impact its program to develop technology for a ground based laser antisatellite weapon beyond the limited demonstration planned for FY 84.

(U) Four alternatives are presented. Alternative 1 is the POM. Alternative 2 funds all three items above (which are in order of priority). Alternative 3 funds only the first two items, and alternative 4 funds only the first item.

Cost Summary: (U)

	TOA(FYDP \$ Millions)	
	FY 84	FY 84-88 Total
Estimated POM Resources (Alt 1)	156	1294
Proposed Changes to POM Resources		
Alternative 2	+ 43	+ 199
Alternative 3	+ 37	+ 136
Alternative 4	+ 37	+ 75

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Issue Sponsor, OASD(C) P/B

Issue: Should the Air Force's Space Laser Program be funded in FY 1984 and FY 1985?

Military Department: Air Force

Rationale: The Air Force's FY 1984 POM does not fund the Space Laser Program until FY 1986, although the FY 1984 Resources Planning Guidance is for the Air Force to continue development of advanced space technology. The Air Force's Space Based Laser Program should coincide, as closely as possible, with the ongoing DARPA TRIAD program. The Air Force's decision to delay the program will be costly in the outyears.

Cost Summary:

	Costs (FYDP \$ Millions)	
	<u>FY 84</u>	<u>FY 84-88 Total</u>
Estimated POM Resources (Alt 1)	-0-	619.0
Proposed Changes to POM Resources Alternative 2	+36.9	+74.4

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