

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 25 MAR 2014 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 13-M-4610

5050552  
+

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass. Div. WHS  
Date

MAR 25 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE (R&D)

SUBJECT: Space Surveillance LWIR Technology (U)

(U) As we begin to rely more heavily on space systems, for both tactical and strategic military purposes, we must develop technologies which can aid in assuring their function during times of military conflict. A key ingredient in our plans to assure the functioning of our space systems in the future will be space surveillance. It appears that spaceborne sensors may be the most practical and least costly alternative method for providing surveillance throughout all the required regions of space. That is why I directed the Air Force during the recent FY 1975 budget review to continue development of sensors for space surveillance applications, particularly long wavelength infrared (LWIR) sensors. LWIR systems for this application have the useful properties of modest data handling problems due to low background star density, independence of target solar illumination and extreme resistance to countermeasures.

(U) I am concerned over the delay of the life tests of the required cryogenic cooler systems which I directed be accelerated to support these possible future systems. I am further concerned that fiscal problems which the Air Force is now experiencing with the Earth Limb Measurements Satellite (ELMS) may affect these tests, either now or in FY 1975.

(U) Therefore, I request that the following actions be taken to insure the viability of this program:

1. The money previously programmed for cryo cooler life tests should be restored and the tests begun immediately.
2. The Air Force should provide me prior to April 15, 1974 a plan for funding both visible and LWIR technology in a balanced manner for FY 1975.

13-M-4610

DDP & E

CIA

SECRET

AI

12/31/80