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

9 August 1978

209: Spec

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

Robert J. Kelley
Managing Editor
Journal of Defense Research
Battelle Memorial Institute
2030 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Attached is a short Guest Editorial and an Acknowledgement for inclusion in the Special Issue on Space Defense. In view of the significant contributions made by the reviewers, it would be appreciated if the Acknowledgement is incorporated near the front of the document so that it may be readily observed.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Yost
Director
Defensive Systems

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 08 2014

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GUEST EDITORIAL

(S) Over the years, there has been a tendency to think of space in a peaceful context. This notion is due, in part, to the fact that there has never been a confrontation in space; in fact, space has been used as a medium where the U.S. and other countries can work together cooperatively. This view notwithstanding, space is being actively exploited by the U.S. and Soviet Union for use in support of their military forces. Satellite systems now exist which can provide position updates to submarine forces, warning against missile attack, targeting information, and support for military command and control operations. The Soviet development of an operational anti-satellite interceptor is, indeed, a vivid indication of the growing military importance of space systems.

(U) Inasmuch as space can play an important, perhaps even a vital, role in a military conflict, it is important that we not permit an adversary to gain a significant advantage in this strategic area. In this regard, the Secretary of Defense stated in his FY1979 DoD Annual Report that, "...we might have to take steps to deter attacks on our satellites, to deal with attacks should they occur, and to have the capability to destroy Soviet satellites if necessary." He continued by remarking that, "We hope that negotiations on ASAT limitations lead to strong symmetric controls. But in the meantime we must proceed with ASAT programs... In consonance with this position, the United States

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has embarked on an aggressive research and development program conducted under the heading of "Space Defense."

(U) with the increased interest in and the rapid expansion of our Space Defense programs, it is timely that a Special Issue of the Journal of Defense Research be dedicated to this important topic. This Issue begins with a thought provoking overview and is followed by three groups of papers that deal with the three principal elements of our Space Defense Program: (1) Space Surveillance; (2) Anti-Satellite Systems; and (3) Satellite Survivability. These papers are organized to give an overview of each of the subject areas as well as to provide details on specific topics; thus, those newly acquainted with this area and those deeply involved with some aspect of Space Defense should find this Special Issue to be both interesting and beneficial.

Robert C. Yost
Director, Defensive Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense for Research and
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Washington, DC

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Considerable credit is due Mr. William Delaney (MIT/Lincoln Laboratory), Dr. John Jamieson (Jamieson Consultants, Inc.), and Mr. Peter Soule (Aerospace Corporation) for their assistance in preparing this Special Issue. These individuals gave generously of their time and talents to review each of the papers and they provided many helpful comments that influenced the content of this publication.

Robert C. Yost
Guest Editor

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