

#136



RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
AND LOGISTICS)

SUBJECT: Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP)

I have recently received a memorandum from the Director, Joint Staff (enclosure) stating their concern over the fact that the Defense Meteorological Satellite DMSP is now only providing limited visual data. The JCS also requested their unified and specified commands respond with specific impacts caused by lack of DMSP data. The command's comments are enclosed for your review. It comes as no surprise that the impacts are now serious and in the event of future hostilities, the situation could be even more serious.

In an effort to seek a solution to this problem, I requested that you immediately develop a plan for accelerating the next two DMSP launches. This plan should include funding considerations and an assessment of possible risks involved. Please submit your recommendations and plans as soon as possible.

Enclosure

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CC:
Dir, Joint Staff

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass. Div. WHS
Date: APR 03 2014

Office of the Secretary of Defense
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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

8 DEC 1980

RESEARCH AND
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COVER BRIEF

TO: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

FROM: DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (STRATEGIC AND SPACE SYSTEMS) *Sy Zeiberg*

PROBLEM: The JCS has asked for your assistance in resolving the deficiency of DMSP data.

BACKGROUND: The JCS sent you a memo on 28 November 1980 (Tab B) stating their concern over the lack of DMSP data. They enclosed specific comments from the U&S commands which elaborate these concerns. The recent unsuccessful launch of spacecraft F-5 and the loss of F-4 has resulted in F-3 being the only operational satellite. F-3 is providing very limited data at this time. The next scheduled launch of a DMSP satellite, F-6 is September 1981. However, DMSP will not be fully operational until launch of F-7 in February 1982.

In addition we have heard through informal sources that the program office is ready to announce further delays in F-6 and F-7. A proposed memorandum for your signature has been prepared (Tab A) to generate a sense of urgency in the Air Force for DMSP. The letter asks for a plan to accelerate the next two launches, which I expect the Air Force will view as difficult. It has also been stated informally that RCA could go into a 7 day 3 shift operation if required. This would result in some schedule acceleration.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the letter (Tab A).

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 03 2014

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S&SS - 2
USDRE - 1
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M&RS - 2 *←*
OSD M&C - 1
Author - 1

Prepared by: *GP* George Pelletiere, O&SS, x 59292, 3E129/12-5-80/ab
Thru; *WA* Dr. Marvin C. Atkins, Dir. O&SS

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