



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON



SEP 26 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(Acquisition, Technology and Logistics)

Subject: SBIRS Issue

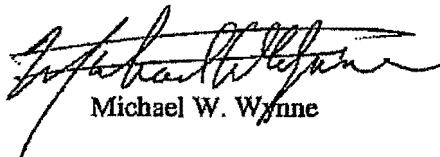
This is about Spaced Based Infrared Satellite (SBIRS) system, and is not good news. The Constellation consists of the HEO Constellation which was expanded to 4 sensors; and the GEO constellation which also has 4 birds. The first HEO is in orbit and performing well. The second HEO sensor is awaiting launch with a host. The problem is with the GEO Birds.

The Problem is a safe hold that did not work on a current satellite, causing mission termination; and the design similarity to the GEO Satellites which caused a no-fly condition. Compounding the issue is the fragility of the computer architecture, specifically in the timing loop. The Contractor, Lockheed Martin, is working both hardware and software potential fixes. The Investigation and Engineering Research plan should be available by late October.

As of now, we are estimating a potential of a 6-12 month slip; and also that the cost impact might be as high as \$1 Billion. As we close on this problem and a solution set; I suggest that you move the presently scheduled DAE review by about a month to November. I intend to conduct a CEO/SECAF Review prior to that meeting.

Earlier, the Department had taken a decision to delay the AIRSS system, taking the money dedicated to it, and funding the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> HEO sensors, and the 4<sup>th</sup> GEO option. This 4<sup>th</sup> GEO option may be at risk; and the Air Force has relegated AIRSS to a technology program status. AIRSS might be available to substitute for a 4<sup>th</sup> GEO, but this depends on the technology development.

Recommendation: Move the DAE review, currently scheduled for 9 October 2007 to November 2007, date TBD.

  
Michael W. Wynne