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BY Wolk

COMMENTS/DIRECTION:

I will meet with  
[redacted] as requested  
me

SS-1

Mr. Plummer has seen.

[redacted] Selection Folder has  
been withdrawn. ETB

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WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE NRO STAFF

26 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Director

[redacted] Deputy for Defense Meteorological Satellite System (DMSP), SAMSO, is scheduled to retire from active duty at the end of August. General Schultz has unilaterally selected [redacted] Chief Engineer of the Defense Support Program as his replacement.

Although the data and much of the details of the DMSP are now unclassified, the primary mission of the program is still the direct support of the photographic reconnaissance satellites of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Today the two DMSP vehicles provide cloud cover "scout" and verification data for both GAMBIT and HEXAGON. They will have an even greater importance by 1977 as they function as "scouts" [redacted]

DMSP throughout its history has had a streamlined management concept in order to satisfy the requirements of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). This concept as applied to the NRP and strategic and tactical operations was reemphasized last year in a letter from Dr. McLucas to General Ryan (Attachment 1).

When I was informed of the selection of [redacted] as the new DMSP Program Director, I spoke to Lieutenant General Hudson, AFSC Vice Commander, and mentioned that the support of the NRP was still the prime mission of DMSP and that we had some interest in who was to be Program Director. General Hudson indicated that he had personally reviewed [redacted] record and that he thought it was great. He added that [redacted] had worked for General Schultz for many years and that General Schultz had a good relationship and confidence in him. A review of [redacted] record (Attachment 2) indicates a

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good technical management background primarily in sophisticated missile systems and recently in DSP. There is no apparent experience in streamlined management techniques or the management of low cost programs. On the whole, however, and particularly in view of the fact that the selection has been made and concurred in by the command level of AFSC I can see no basis for an objection on our part.

Yet there is deep concern at Headquarters Air Weather Service, DMSP SPO, and within my staff that the new DMSP Director will neither understand nor recognize that the primary mission of DMSP is the direct support of the NRP. He may feel tactical support and NOAA cooperation is the DMSP mission; this could be due to:

- a. the declassification of the data and much of the program,
- b. the tri-service agreement,
- c. NOAA's willingness to use the Block 5D bus and technology, and
- d. The creation of the polar-orbiting METSAT coordination board.

Because of the increasing influence of NOAA, the Army and Navy in the program, it is imperative that the Program Director be totally cognizant of the history, purpose, and management techniques as they exist for NRP support, and that these be first and foremost when he deals with these agencies. As such, we should ensure that the new Program Director and Systems Command understand that we have a direct and continuing interest in the management of the program.

The DMSP program derives its high military and industrial priority from its support to the NRP. The support requirements for the NRP have also driven the basic design approach; for example, the basic Block V system was designed to meet the rapid large area coverage requirements of HEXAGON and the present DMSP Block VD system design is driven by the KENNEN operational needs.

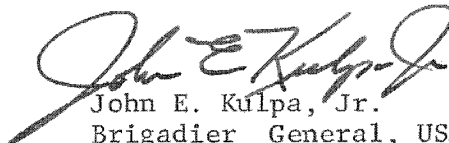
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This close coupling of the DMSP program to the NRP needs without causing either administrative or security problems has been accomplished primarily through a detailed understanding by the DMSP Program Director and key Air Weather Service personnel of the primary DMSP mission and its relationship to existing and planned NRP imaging systems. The Program Director has always maintained through streamlined management a responsive interface with SAFSS. It is essential that this interface be maintained.

We have made arrangements for [ ] to visit SAFSS on 1 August for a series of orientation briefings. He will also be visiting Global Weather Central and Headquarters Air Weather Service for orientation. I have set up 30 minutes on your calendar for you to meet him. I suggest you take the opportunity to stress the NRP continuing role as the primary customer for DMSP. Further, it would be well to point out the source of his priority and the need for continued responsiveness to changing needs of the NRP.

If the occasion presents itself a similar personal discussion on DMSP between yourself and General Phillips would be beneficial.

  
John E. Kulpa, Jr.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director

2 Attachments

1. Ltr fm Dr. McLucas to Gen Ryan  
dated 17 Apr 73
2. [ ] Record

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

17 APR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF

SUBJECT: The Continuing Requirement for the DSAP

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Recent developments have focused unaccustomed attention upon the Defense Systems Application Program (DSAP), accompanied by a greater demand upon its system output and capabilities. The purpose of this letter is to insure the proven responsiveness of DSAP in meeting the requirements of the National Reconnaissance Office is retained.

The DSAP continues to be one of the most important data sources available in the production of weather support for National Reconnaissance Programs. This key role of the DSAP will soon be expanding to meet requirements generated by planned GAMBIT modifications and with the advent of an operational KENNEN system.

Currently, two DSAP vehicles are on orbit providing global data near dawn and near noon in local sun time, with additional coverage near sunset and local midnight. The early morning DSAP is used as a "scout" for the HEXAGON and provides information for making short lead-time forecasts for selection of camera operations. The noon/midnight vehicle provides visual and infrared data at night which goes into the longer lead-time forecasts for GAMBIT. This vehicle also provides noontime Very High Resolution visual data which is used in making assessments of the actual cloud conditions that existed when HEXAGON and GAMBIT camera operations took place.

In 1974 the GAMBIT mission length will be extended making the system more sensitive to cloud conditions. At the same time, new system software will permit the use of the early morning DSAP data in preparing short forecasts. The morning scout will then be providing short lead-time--and thus more accurate--forecasts to both reconnaissance programs.

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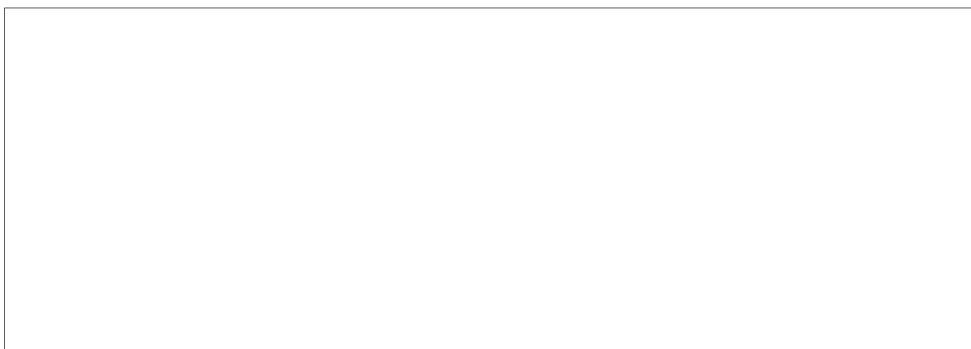
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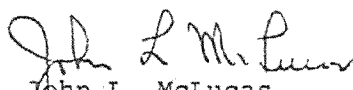
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These are the primary considerations which I feel necessitate a reaffirmation of the DSAP management guidelines at this time. DSAP support to the NRP must continue in the highly successful and cost-effective manner that has been historically proven since 1965. I am sending a separate letter, classified SECRET, to update the SAFUS memorandum "Program 417 Management" of 22 June 1965. The new letter summarizes key areas of Program responsibility and restates essential management guidance necessary in the present environment. The environment is the result of the recent declassification of the data and the agreement to study merging DOD and the Department of Commerce meteorological satellite systems late this decade.

  
John L. McLucas

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