



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

**THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

DEC 12 2005

The Honorable C. W. "Bill" Young  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have restructured the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) High program, as explained below, and based on that restructuring and pursuant to section 2433 of title 10, United States Code, I certify with respect to the restructured SBIRS program that:

1. such acquisition program is essential to the national security;
2. there are no alternatives to such acquisition program which will provide equal or greater military capability at less cost;
3. the new estimates of the program acquisition unit cost or procurement unit cost for such program are reasonable; and
4. the management structure for such acquisition program is adequate to manage and control program acquisition unit cost or procurement unit cost.

Missile warning is vital to our nation's security, and as such my decision was made to ensure that the nation's missile warning capability is preserved.

As restructured the SBIRS program will include completion of the development program (two geosynchronous earth orbit satellites, two highly elliptical orbit payloads, and associated ground system) and procurement of one geosynchronous satellite. The original program included the procurement of three geosynchronous satellites following the development phase. A contract for the

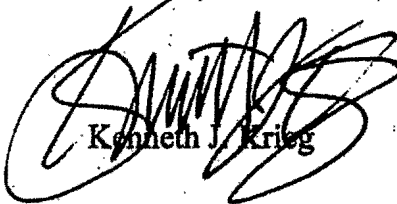
procurement satellite will not be awarded until I am confident the first developmental geosynchronous satellite can perform its mission.

Given the continued importance to support strategic and theater missile warning and missile defense, I am convinced there is a need to develop a competitor capability, in parallel with the SBIRS program, to ensure the nation's missile warning capacity is sustained. The Department of Defense will work with the Congress to initiate a new program for space-based Overhead Non-Imaging Infrared (ONIR) to generate competition and exploit new technologies. Through the restructured SBIRS program and the parallel competitor program, the Department expects to gain additional insight that may drive future decisions related to the missile warning and technical intelligence mission areas. We look forward to your support to address the nation's continued strategic and theater missile warning capability while planning for the missile warning system of the future.

I will conduct enhanced oversight of this program to ensure that cost and management are closely monitored.

Similar letters are being sent to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chairmen and Ranking Members of the other Congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Krieg

cc:  
The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Ranking Member