

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**DEFENSE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM III**  
**WITH INTEGRATED APOGEE BOOST SYSTEM**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL AIR STATION, FLORIDA**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 6050.1, DOD Instruction 5000.2, and Air Force Instruction 32-7061, which implements these regulations in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), Air Force Regulation 19-9 regarding inter-agency coordination, and other applicable federal and local regulations, the United States Air Force has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the processing for launch of six Defense Satellite Communications System III (DSCS III) satellites with Integrated Apogee Boost System (IABS). The no action alternative was also considered. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the evaluation.

**Proposed Action and Alternatives:** The Air Force proposes to process six DSCS III/IABS satellites for launch at Cape Canaveral Air Station (AS), Florida, during the time frame from 1995 through 2003. The satellites will be operated on-orbit for approximately 10 years until their end of life. The no-action alternative would be continued reliance on the existing on-orbit DSCS satellites with no replenishment until the operational life of the existing satellites is ended.

**Anticipated Environmental Effects:** The environmental assessment evaluated the environmental impacts of the satellite system with regard to transportation, processing, operation, and disposal. Impacts associated with the launch vehicle have been previously assessed in an environmental assessment dated February 1989 for the Medium Launch Vehicle II program that resulted in a FONSI. The potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives were assessed for the following environmental resource areas: air quality (including stratospheric ozone), hazardous materials, hazardous waste, solid waste, pollution prevention, nonionizing radiation, ionizing radiation, water quality, biological communities, cultural resources, noise, socioeconomics, orbital debris, and safety.

Operations will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local legislation and regulation, including existing permits. Operational effects would cause quantifiable increases from the existing baseline conditions of no more than one percent for any of the resource areas considered with the exception of orbital debris. The proposed action would increase the population of tracked objects in near geosynchronous Earth orbit by approximately 2.6 percent. At the end of the operational life of each satellite, the remaining fuel would be used to move the satellite to an orbit beyond geosynchronous Earth orbit.

**Conclusion:** Based on the environmental assessment, it is concluded that the proposed action will not result in significant environmental impacts or cause significant cumulative impacts in association with other programs. An environmental impact statement is not required.

**Mitigation:** No significant impacts were identified which would require mitigation.

**Point of Contact:** A copy of the "Defense Satellite Communications System III with Integrated Apogee Boost System Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment," July 1995, may be obtained from, or comments on these documents may be submitted to:

*Finding of No Significant Impact  
Defense Satellite Communications System III*

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**Approved:**

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Date