

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### SPACE AND MISSILE TRACKING SYSTEM FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION 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 Regulation 5000.2-R, and Air Force Instruction 32-7061, which implements these regulations in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), and other applicable federal and local regulations, the United States Air Force has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the Space and Missile Tracking System (SMTS) Flight Demonstration System (FDS). The no action alternative was also considered. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the evaluation.

**Proposed Action and Alternatives:** This Environmental Assessment (EA) assesses anticipated environmental impacts related to the manufacturing, assembly, and testing of two SMTS FDS satellites at an existing contractor facility in Redondo Beach, California, which will be used as the Contractor Operations and Test Support Center (COTSC); installation of equipment in existing government facilities at the National Test Facility (NTF) Operations Center (NOPC) at Falcon Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado; transportation of the two satellites from the contractor's manufacturing, assembly, and test facility in Redondo Beach, California, to Cape Canaveral Air Station (AS), Florida; prelaunch processing in the NAVSTAR Processing Facility and the Defense Satellite Communications System Processing Facility at Cape Canaveral AS; launch of the two satellites by a single Delta II 7420 launch vehicle into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in fiscal year 1999; tracking of targets; maintenance and operation of the SMTS FDS for one to five years; utilization of the communication capabilities of the existing Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN); and disposal of the satellites when their operational life has ended. The no-action alternative is no space-based test of critical SMTS technologies. Ground-based testing as an alternative was eliminated from further consideration because the purpose and need for the system would no be met.

**Anticipated Environmental Effects:** The environmental assessment evaluated the environmental impacts of the satellite system. Manufacturing, assembly, and testing of the satellites, along with operation of the COTSC will occur within the parameters of existing environmental permits and will not cause significant environmental impacts. The use of a small portion of the Joint NTF by twelve personnel will not cause significant environmental impacts. A previous EA for the Delta II launch vehicle found that 21 launches over the period 1996 through 2003 at up to three launches per year (Medium Launch Vehicle III, 1994) will not cause significant environmental impacts. The SMTS FDS launch is covered by the Medium Launch Vehicle III, 1994 EA. Operation of the SMTS FDS through the existing AFSCN will not cause significant environmental impacts. The potential environmental effects associated with

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SMTS Flight Demonstration System

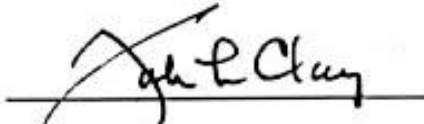
transportation, processing, operation, and disposal of the satellites were assessed for the following environmental resource areas: air quality (including stratospheric ozone), hazardous material, hazardous waste, solid waste, pollution prevention, nonionizing radiation, water quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and safety. The most impacted areas are air quality and hazardous waste. Additionally, cumulative effects of the integrated program as it draws upon independent resources which have previously been assessed and/or with other reasonably foreseeable actions will not be significant.

Operations will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local legislation and regulation, including existing permits. Operations would cause quantifiable increases from the existing baseline conditions of less than 0,5 percent for any of the resource areas considered.

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

**Conclusion:** Following a review of the attached environmental assessment, which is hereby incorporated by reference, it is concluded that the Space and Missile Tracking System Flight Demonstration System will not produce significant environmental impacts, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This document, and the supporting Environmental Assessment, fulfill the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ regulations, and AFI 32-7061.

**Concur:**

  
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JOHN L. CLAY  
Brigadier General USAF  
Vice Commander

21 Jan 97  
Date