

OPENING STATEMENT

BY

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AND

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BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION**

**SUB-COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE**

U.S. SENATE

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss the role of the Department of Defense (DoD) in the continuation of the Landsat Program. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and DoD agree that the Landsat program provides a unique capability that benefits a wide community of users; including the global change research community, other U. S. Government users, and the private sector. For these reasons our two Agencies are committed to the goals of Landsat data continuity, and continued data availability for all users, including those in the private sector. In doing so, we will seek ways to encourage remote sensing commercialization and economic growth over the long term.

Before discussing Landsat program specifics, I'd like to address an issue that I know is of concern, that is, the perception that DoD involvement may somehow result in program security classification, thus shutting the door to many current Landsat users. I assure you, no Landsat system will ever be classified.

NASA and DoD will execute Landsat 7 as an unclassified program. In fact, this position is strongly supported by DoD operational users since it will give them ready, uncomplicated access to data. And while we do want to improve the system for National security users, the NASA/DoD goal is to preserve continuity of data and to provide access to same users that receive service today. In certain situations it may be necessary in the future -- as it has occasionally been in the past -- to temporarily suspend data availability to specific users because of national security concerns. NASA and DoD propose to develop procedures to minimize the impact of restrictions to Landsat system users in such circumstances.

In addition, DoD is actively involved in the Landsat program because we have a need for continued Landsat data. In support of National Space Council Landsat activities of the past year, a survey of the DoD (Joint Staff, DIA, DMA, U & S Commands, Services, and Technology centers) found that unclassified Landsat data provides substantial value in addressing a variety of national security needs. An interesting item is that the DoD is currently the largest consumer of Landsat data. In fact, every Unified and

Specified Command has identified mission essential information requirements that can be satisfied by multispectral data. Typical Defense uses for this data include: targeting support, counternarcotics applications, hydrography, intelligence support for current operations, operations planning, mapping, charting, and geodesy, characterization of science/technology and military/industrial capabilities, and arms control and treaty monitoring.

These findings convinced senior DoD officials of the value of Landsat data to national security information needs and have further strengthened my personal commitment to the Landsat program. I want Landsat to succeed and am actively engaged in the process of making that happen.

NASA and DoD have developed an integrated management plan based on the guidance set forth in the President's National Space Policy Directive 5 on Landsat Remote Sensing Strategy. In general, DoD has the lead responsibility for the acquisition and launch of Landsat 7. NASA has the lead responsibility for the development and operation of the Landsat 7 ground system. In addition, the DoD Landsat Program Office will furnish general systems-level engineering and integration services in support of both the NASA and DoD Project Managers to maintain end-to-end fidelity of the Landsat system. Finally, DoD will have lead responsibility, with support from NASA, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies, to prepare a coordinated technology plan for future Landsat-type U. S. Earth remote sensing system. I will administer the DoD portion of the program as the Director, Defense Support Project Office, with resources provided through the Defense Reconnaissance Support Program. The National Space Council concurred in the NASA/DoD management plan on April 28th, and provided us with several useful member agency suggestions that we will apply in executing the program.

Before addressing the DoD plans for Landsat 7, I would like to briefly comment on S. 2297. We view the bill, along with substitute bill H.R. 3614, as a positive step forward for all remote sensing interests. There are however, some changes we would like to see in the proposed bill. The current bill calls for unenhanced data to be provided to users at no more than marginal costs. We prefer that pricing policy not be legislated, but rather be subjected to the normal regulatory process in determining the

appropriate structure. My colleague Dr. Len Fisk will address this issue in more detail. Second, the President has assigned responsibility for Landsat 6 to the Secretary of Commerce through its launch, currently scheduled in January 1993. Landsat 6 operations are closely tied to Landsat data accessibility under the Government's contract with EOSAT, and we expect that NASA will have a programmatic interest in both making Landsat 6 data more readily accessible and in Landsat 6 operations. However, as yet the Administration has not determined which agency will have responsibility over Landsat 6 after launch. Finally, due to the responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of Commerce by the Land Remote Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984, we are reviewing this law as well as all related statutes to determine if any changes may be needed to conduct the planned Landsat program prior to enactment of new legislation.

Landsat satellites 4 and 5 have been operating well beyond their expected life of 3 years, and their status for the immediate future is uncertain. Landsat 6, with a design life of 5 years, is currently scheduled to launch in early 1993. Therefore, to allow for data continuity Landsat 7 should be available for launch in 1997. To support this goal, we have defined an aggressive acquisition strategy which includes a competitive procurement consistent with current and pending legislation. We have released a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) and are in the review cycle.

In FY 1992 Congress, through the Defense Appropriations Conference, appropriated \$10M for DoD Landsat activities and appropriated an additional \$20M subject to certifications to be made to the Congressional Appropriations Committees. We are actively pursuing the completion of these certifications, our acquisition strategy plans for the availability of funds early this summer. The aggressive acquisition strategy goal is for contract award as soon as possible, hopefully this summer - to permit us to meet our current schedule for launch of Landsat 7.

As part of our competitive acquisition, we intend to develop a Landsat 7 satellite which is, as a minimum, functionally equivalent in performance to the Landsat 6 satellite. One significant improvement will be the addition of a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS) communications subsystem. This will give us greater communication capability and flexibility, with the added benefit and capability of easing integration of Landsat operations into

NASA's EOS (Earth Observing System) operational architecture. Specifically, the Landsat 7 satellite will continue to provide data sufficiently consistent with previous Landsat data to allow comparison for global and regional change detection and characterization. However, improvements will be sought if they do not increase risk to data continuity, and are attainable within agreed-to funding profiles. Potential improvements could include features such as improved resolution, improved calibration, stereoscopic viewing, improved spectral characteristics, and other capabilities designed to increase the scientific, military, and commercial utility of the system.

As part of our approved integrated management approach, NASA and DoD will each fund that portion of the program for which it is responsible. A cost baseline has been developed, under a general guideline that each agency's total funding responsibility be approximately equal as spread across the development and operational life of Landsat 7. Any substantial improvements for Landsat 7 over a Landsat 6 functional equivalent capability would be funded by the sponsoring agency, if the required funding exceeds the baseline funds.

Although NASA and DoD have defined management responsibilities for the Landsat 7 program as part of our agreed to management plan, continuous coordination in all aspects of the program will ensure that the stated goals are achieved and the full user community is supported. NASA and DoD are developing an organizational structure that guarantees integration and fosters cooperation between the two organizations. For example, each organization will have individuals residing in the project office of their counterpart, and in a jointly staffed coordination facility in the Washington D. C. area.

On a more formal level, a jointly chaired Landsat Coordinating Group will be formed which will oversee interactions on top-level program plans, budget execution and policies; handle interagency matters related to the program; staff any issues requiring adjudication at senior departmental levels; and coordinate any reports to Congress.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (ASD/C3I) - Duane Andrews - will be the

senior official responsible for DoD program oversight, policy, and issue resolution. As Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space and Director of the Defense Support Project Office, I will provide senior management direction and guidance for the Space segment of Landsat 7. Major General Nathan Lindsay, Director of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force/Special Projects, will execute the Space segment acquisition program.

In closing, once again let me state that DoD is firmly committed to the continuation of the Landsat program into the next century. We have developed an excellent and affordable arrangement for Landsat with our partners in NASA and have established a very ambitious acquisition schedule to meet the data continuity goals established by the Administration. Our NASA/DoD team is moving forward with speed, enthusiasm, and a highly cooperative spirit. We look forward to continuing our work with you to meet the diverse needs of the broad user community. This program is a fundamental step towards continued U. S. leadership in space remote sensing - a goal we all share.

Thank you.