NATIONAL SPACE POLICY DIRECTIVE 5

LANDSAT REMOTE SENSING STRATEGY

February 5, 1992

Bush, George H.W. NSPD-5. "LANDSAT Remote Sensing Strategy." *NASA Historical Reference Collection*. (File: 012605). 5 Feb. 1992.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1992

NATIONAL SPACE POLICY DIRECTIVE 5

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Landsat Remote Sensing Strategy

I. Policy Goals

A remote sensing capability such as is currently being provided by Landsat satellites 4 and 5 benefits the civil and national security interests of the United States and makes contributions to the private sector which are in the public interest. For these reasons, the United States government will seek to maintain continuity of Landsat-type data. The U.S. government will:

(a) Provide data which are sufficiently consistent in terms of acquisition geometry, coverage characteristics, and spectral characteristics with previous Landsat data to allow comparisons for change detection and characterization;

(b) Make Landsat data available to meet the needs of national security, global change research, and other federal users; and,

(c) Promote and not preclude private sector commercial opportunities in landsat-type remote sensing.

II. Landsat Strategy

a. The Landsat strategy is composed of the following elements:

(1) Ensuring that Landsat satellites 4 and 5 continue to provide data as long as they are technically capable of doing so, or until Landsat 6 becomes operational.

(2) Acquiring a Landsat 7 satellite with the goal of maintaining continuity of Landsat-type data beyond the projected Landsat 6 end-of-life.

(3) Fostering the development of advanced remote sensing technologies, with the goal of reducing the cost and increasing the performance of future Landsat-type satellites to meet U.S. government needs, and potentially, enabling substantially greater opportunities for commercialization.

(4) Seeking to minimize the cost of Landsat-type data for U.S. government agencies and to provide data for use in global change research in a manner consistent with the Administration's Data Management for Global Change Research Policy Statements.

(5) Limiting U.S. government regulations affecting private sector remote sensing activities to only those required in the interest of national security, foreign policy, and public safety.

(6) Maintaining an archive, within the United States, of existing and future Landsat-type data.

(7) Considering alternatives for maintaining continuity of data beyond Landsat 7.

b. These strategy elements will be implemented within the overall resource and policy guidance provided by the President.

III. Implementing Guidelines

a. The Department of Commerce will:

(1) Complete and launch Landsat 6.

(2) In coordination with OMB, arrange for the continued operation of Landsat satellites 4 and 5 until Landsat 6 becomes operational.

b. The Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will:

(1) Develop and launch a Landsat 7 satellite of at least equivalent performance to replace Landsat 6 and define alternatives for maintaining data continuity beyond Landsat 7.

(2) Prepare a plan by March 1, 1992, which addresses management and funding responsibilities, operations, data archiving and dissemination, and commercial considerations associated with the Landsat program. This plan will be coordinated with other U.S. government agencies, as appropriate, and reviewed by the National Space Council.

(3) With the support of the Department of Energy and other appropriate agencies, prepare a coordinated technology plan that has as its goals improving the performance and reducing the cost for future Landsat-type remote sensing systems.

c. The Department of the Interior will continue to maintain a national archive of Landsat-type remote sensing data.

d. Affected agencies will identify funds, within their approved fiscal year 1993 budget, necessary to implement this strategy.

IV. Reporting Requirements

U.S. government agencies affected by these strategy guidelines are directed to report by March 15, 1992, to the National Space Council on the implementation of this strategy.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 13, 1992

VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES LANDSAT POLICY

The Vice President announced today that President Bush has approved a National Space Policy Directive which reaffirms the importance of Landsat-type multispectral imaging and provides a plan for maintaining continuity of Landsat coverage into the 21st century.

Landsat is an important satellite program which provides multispectral pictures of the Earth. It supports U.S. government needs, including those related to national security and global change research, and benefits the U.S. private sector. In May 1989, President Bush directed that continuity of Landsat-type remote sensing data be maintained, and approved a series of near term actions to implement this policy. The new National Space Policy Directive, which was developed by the National Space Council chaired by Vice President Quayle, establishes a comprehensive, long range strategy and assigns agency responsibilities for the future.

A key element of this strategy is the assignment of management and funding responsibility for the next satellite, Landsat 7, to the agencies which have the primary requirements for the data, NASA and the Department of Defense. The strategy seeks to minimize the cost of Landsat-type images for U.S. government uses, calls on agencies to eliminate unnecessary regulations governing private sector remote sensing activities, and fosters development of advanced remote sensing technologies to reduce the cost and improve the performance of future satellites.

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Attachment

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