

B-2 RADAR MODERNIZATION

The currently fielded B-2 radar system, including the radar, defensive management system (DMS) and transponder, operates within a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum where the U.S. Government is designated as a secondary user. Secondary user status means that the B-2 radar system cannot interfere with primary users. Interference with primary users by a secondary user invokes statutory penalties. Due to the planned expansion of primary users in the currently fielded radar system frequency band, in the near future the B-2 will no longer be able to operate without high probability of interference with primary users. In order to ensure the continued operation of the B-2 weapon system, the B-2 radar system must be modified to allow operation in another portion of the spectrum where the U.S. Government is guaranteed primary user status. The B-2 radar must vacate its current frequency by a classified, near-term date. A program to develop and field a new radar system is ongoing.

The budget request includes \$270,649,000 for the procurement of eight production radar units. Due to technical maturity problems with the radar modernization program's antenna, the fiscal year 2007 funds for four production units have been placed on hold and will be used for other unrelated efforts. Subsequent to the submission of the fiscal year 2008 budget request, the Air Force acknowledged the impact on production caused by the technical maturity problems and requested that the funding for the procurement of units requested in the fiscal year 2008 budget be reduced. In addition, the Air Force communicated to the Committee a requirement for additional funds supporting the radar's development program beyond what was requested in the fiscal year 2008 budget. Accordingly, the Committee reduces the procurement request by \$100,000,000, including three radar units. As requested by the Air Force, the Committee provides an additional \$38,000,000 in Line 70, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force, for the ongoing radar development program.