A cold shoulder for the DoD

By Peter Parkham

Strange things are happening in Washington these days. Up on Capitol Hill, the Senate Armed Services Committee has, for the first time in recent memory, perhaps for the first time ever, refused to approve the Defense budget for the new Undersea Long-range Missile System (ULMS). The past, approval such requests had been almost pro forma in nature. At the height of the Vietnam War, supplemental appropriations amounting to billions of dollars were regularly approved by the Congress. The use of the supplemental appropriation device allowed the Johnson Administration to submit a defense budget lower than it knew would be needed to fight the war in order to put the main appropriation through the Congress. Then, later in the year it could come back to the Senate on Capitol Hill, wrap itself in the flag, and claim that a vote against the supplemental appropriation was a vote against the brave American fighting men in the rice paddies of Southeast Asia holding back the tide of communism from taking California. Remember the words of Richard Nixon, or was it Lyndon Johnson who were in the audience, and - yes, to permit any photography iff any of MIT's projects in these areas: communications, non-Linear circuits, coding, and speech recognition. The last two topics are most important events. (Editor)

The Pentagon has requested informal approval by the Armed Services Committee of a $35 million incremental to the 1974 budget defense subcommittee for the new Undersea Long-range Missile System (ULMS). The past, approval such requests had been almost pro forma in nature. At the height of the Vietnam War, supplemental appropriations amounting to billions of dollars were regularly approved by the Congress. The use of the supplemental appropriation device allowed the Johnson Administration to submit a defense budget lower than it knew would be needed to fight the war in order to put the main appropriation through the Congress. Then, later in the year it could come back to the Senate on Capitol Hill, wrap itself in the flag, and claim that a vote against the supplemental appropriation was a vote against the brave American fighting men in the rice paddies of Southeast Asia holding back the tide of communism from taking California. Remember the words of Richard Nixon, or was it Lyndon Johnson who were in the audience, and - yes, to permit any photography iff any of MIT's projects in these areas: communications, non-Linear circuits, coding, and speech recognition. The last two topics are most important events. (Editor)

The Defense Department has used various delaying tactics in the ULMS. Defense Laird at one point testified that the weapon systems could be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations for Strategic Limitations Talks (SALT) with the Russians (the same argument used for the ABM also). Laird said that an agreement were reached on the limitations of sea-based strategic missile systems, then the new ULMS would provide a hedge against the development of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities by an enemy of the United States.

Both the US and USSR have failed to develop the equivalent of the ASW capability, although vast sums of money have been expended in the effort. Traditionally, the ASW problem has been composed of four parts: detection, localization, tracking, and destruction. Responsible American officials have stated that so far is can be determined, no evidence has been detected on patrol during the over 12 years of the submarines operations. However, merely not detected in the FBM would not be sufficient to remove the forces as a threat to any enemy of the United States. All of the submarines, both on patrol and in port for replenishment, would be detected, localized, tracked, for a period of days. If any clear, the new UNCAMS would result in a single emergency. In other words, with current technology, the strategic ASW problem is considered unsolvable.

The detection part of the problem for a given country consists of searching all of the areas and search areas which enemy submarines could dock and still fire Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM's) against the given country. One of the main concerns of any detection is to try to get good pictures of important events. (Editor)

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