



Department of the Air Force
Scientific Advisory Board

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Test Range Security Study

Abstract

The Air Force's Western Test Ranges are an essential resource for the U.S., critical to establishing and maintaining the U.S. military's technological edge. Important capabilities are currently tested and evaluated, and additional uses are possible in the future. An important aspect of maintaining the U.S.'s technological edge is preventing unauthorized access to sensitive information concerning facilities, operations, instrumentation, and capabilities under test.

While U.S. test range facilities continue to advance, and new and more advanced capabilities are tested and evaluated, means for unauthorized collection of test range operations, facilities, and instrumentation, as well as capabilities under test are also improving.

It is critical to understand and project what information will need to be protected from such collection, and to understand and project techniques and capabilities that could be used for unauthorized collection of this information. Appropriate steps can then be taken to ensure adequate protection of critical U.S. information on these test ranges.

The study will:

- 1) Document existing and potential facilities and uses of certain Air Force Western Test Ranges, including facilities, operations, instrumentation, and capabilities under test.
- 2) Establish the essential information that must be protected from unauthorized collection.
- 3) Work with the intelligence community to document existing and potential threat capabilities that could be used for unauthorized collection of test range operations, facilities, and instrumentation, as well as capabilities under test.
- 4) List steps currently being taken to prevent unacceptable unauthorized observation and collection.
- 5) Identify essential information that may be at risk of unauthorized collection in the present or in the future, elucidate alternative means that can be used to protect this information, assess their capabilities, and identify any information that could remain at risk.
- 6) Identify and assess technology and operational options in the near-, mid-, and far-term needed to protect the essential information.