



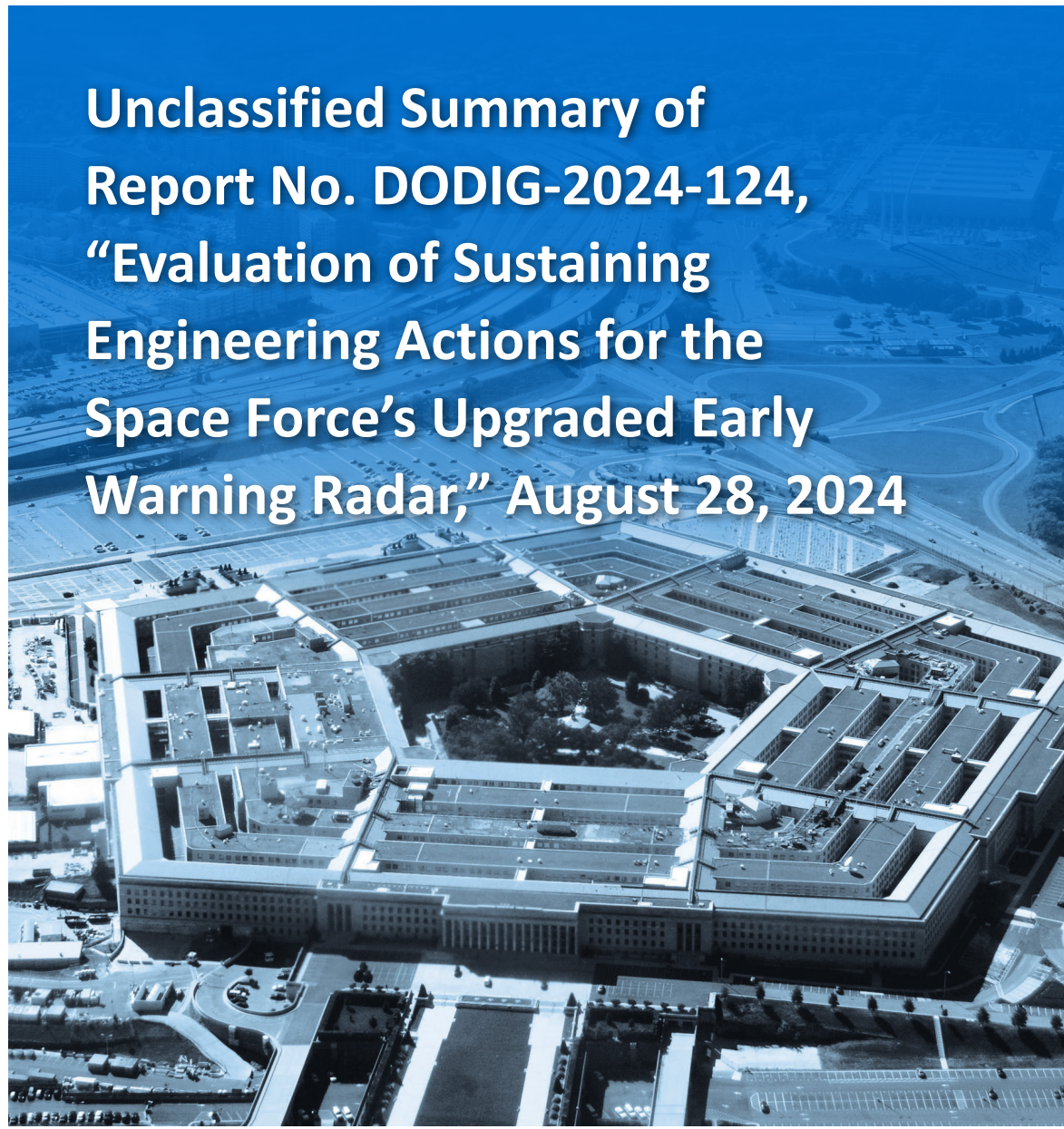
INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Defense

AUGUST 28, 2024



Unclassified Summary of Report No. DODIG-2024-124, “Evaluation of Sustaining Engineering Actions for the Space Force’s Upgraded Early Warning Radar,” August 28, 2024



INDEPENDENCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ EXCELLENCE ★ TRANSPARENCY

NOTE: A controlled unclassified information version of the Evaluation of Sustaining Engineering Actions for the Space Force's Upgraded Early Warning Radar formed the basis of the unclassified summary.

Objective

The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General conducted an evaluation titled “Evaluation of Sustaining Engineering Actions for the Space Force’s Upgraded Early Warning Radar.” The objective of this evaluation was to determine the extent to which the Space Force implemented sustaining engineering actions to ensure that the Upgraded Early Warning Radar (UEWR) was capable, reliable, and available to meet mission requirements while managing risks. Specifically, we determined whether the UEWR program office took sustaining engineering actions that were effective sustainment solutions for the UEWR.

Background

The UEWR mission is to detect and track launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, while conducting general space surveillance and satellite tracking. The UEWR can detect and track multiple targets up to 3,000 miles away and is based on two previous systems, the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System and the PAVE Phased Array Warning System. The UEWR sites are positioned at U.S. and allied nation bases to provide coverage to allow for early warning detection of an incoming ballistic missile threat.

Scope and Methodology

We reviewed the UEWR system to determine the extent to which Space Force officials implemented sustainment, maintenance, and modernization actions over the UEWR life cycle. Specifically, our evaluation included site visits to Cape Cod Space Force Station, Massachusetts, and Clear Space Force Station, Alaska; and a virtual site visit with representatives at Royal Air Force Fylingdales, United Kingdom. We also interviewed Space Force, UEWR Program Office, UEWR site maintenance, and Air Force budget representatives. Furthermore, we identified a nonstatistical sample of three critical sustainment projects. We then analyzed these critical sustainment projects to determine the extent to which they were effective sustaining engineering solutions for the UEWR.

Findings, Recommendations, Management Comments, and Our Response

Our findings included that the Space Force took actions to sustain the UEWR, but that a lack of spare parts, obsolescence, unscheduled system maintenance, and delayed modernization continue to be a problem. We recommended that the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Space Acquisition and Integration):

- conduct an analysis of the potential costs and performance benefits of modernizing the UEWR, and
- use the analysis to develop a plan of action with milestones to execute the sustainment and modernization needed to maintain mission readiness.

The Assistant Secretary agreed, and their comments addressed the specifics of each recommendation. We consider the recommendations resolved and open. We will close the recommendations when we verify that the agreed-upon actions have been completed.

There is no redacted version of this report available. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please submit a request to [FOIA.gov](https://www.foia.gov).

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