

INFORMATION PAPER

Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) Program Acquisition Decision

- Pursuant to section 2433 of title 10, United States Code (“Unit Cost Reports” or “Nunn-McCurdy”), the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) certified that the EELV program is essential to national security, there are no alternatives that will provide equal or greater military capability at less cost, the new cost estimates are reasonable, and the management structure is adequate to manage and control costs.
- As a result of his decision to certify the program following a Nunn-McCurdy unit cost breach, on April 26, 2004, the Acting USD(AT&L) signed an acquisition decision memorandum providing direction to the Air Force. It was determined that the unit cost breach was substantially due to the failure of the commercial market to achieve its projected launch forecast.
- The Acting USD(AT&L) directed the Air Force to work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense Cost Analysis Improvement Group to update their cost estimates and to submit a revised Acquisition Program Baseline and Acquisition Strategy Report for the restructured program.
- The Acting USD(AT&L) also directed an update of the Space Launch Modernization Plan to address the association between launch/production rates versus reliability and the investments the Department should make to support better “assured access to space.”