



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

50 Years of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Let me extend a warm congratulations to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for a half century of achievement in science and technology.

President Eisenhower created the agency in 1958 in response to the Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik satellite. DARPA's task: to make sure that never again would the United States be vulnerable to an adversary's technological surprise.

For 50 years, the agency has provided that edge to our Armed Forces. The list of DARPA's visionary contributions includes such milestones as the Saturn V rocket, which enabled the United States to launch the Apollo missions to the moon; the ARPANET, which led to the Internet and a global information revolution; and the stealth technology employed on combat aircraft today.

Hundreds of other DARPA improvements are a part of every military system in the Department of Defense and can be found in homes and businesses across America.

These innovations would not have been possible without all who have served the agency so faithfully and so well over the last five decades. The men and women of DARPA have consistently given their talents, their ingenuity, and their courage to the defense of the nation. On behalf of the entire Department, I wish you many more years of success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Robert M. Gates", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

