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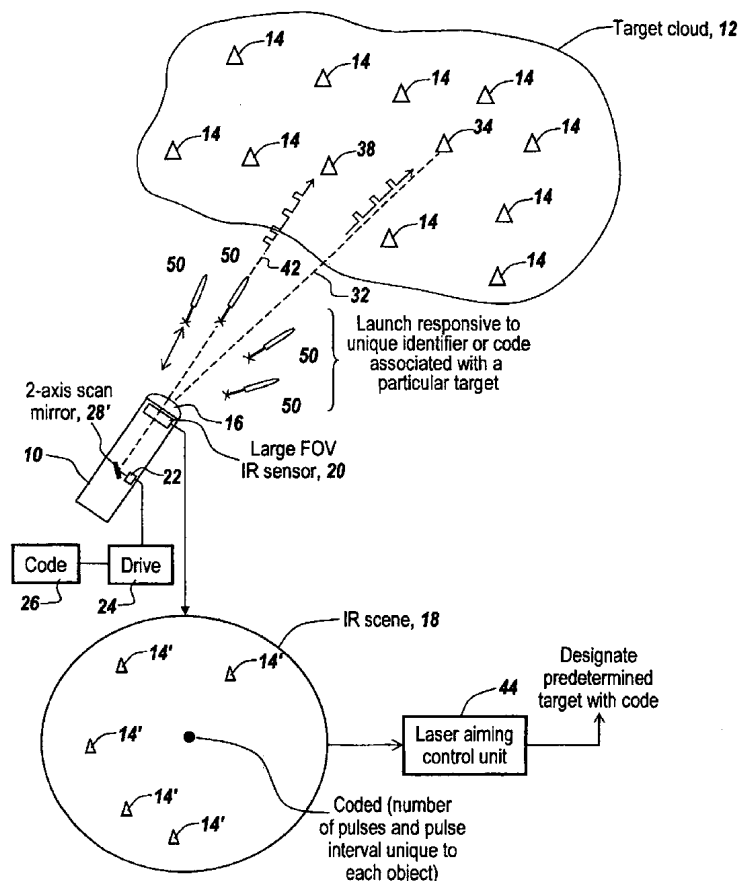
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENTLY TARGETING MULTIPLE RE-ENTRY VEHICLES WITH MULTIPLE KILL VEHICLES



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is provided for increasing the effectiveness of destroying selected objects in a target cloud by prioritizing the objects detected in a large aperture IR detector aboard a carrier vehicle and sequentially illuminating the detected targets with coded laser radiation, followed by the launching of multiple miniature kill vehicles from the carrier vehicle, with each kill vehicle assigned to a differently-coded object in the target cloud due to the reflection back of the coded returns, thus to permit directing of individual miniature kill vehicles to a specific object in the target cloud prior to a handoff to an IR heat seeker in the miniature kill vehicle, actuated to guide the kill vehicle for a final kill.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **F41G 7/00(2006.01)**

USPC: 244/3.13,3.15,3.16,3.17

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 244/3.13,3.15,3.16,3.17

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
search terms: laser, coded, missile, seeker, infrared, micron, ballistic, detector

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,273,236 A (WOOTON et al) 28 December 1993 (28.12.1993), column 2, lines 43-51;	1
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Y		1-5,11-13,15-20
Y	US 5,374,009 A (MILLER, Jr. et al) 20 December 1994 (20.12.1994), column 1, lines 18-38;	1-5,11-13,15-20
	column 2, lines 45-68; column 3, lines 62-68; column 4, lines 1-14; column 5, lines 1-11.	
Y	US H000796 H (MILLER, Jr. et al) 03 July 1990 (03.07.1990), column 6, lines 18-61.	5,11-12,19
A	US 5,458,041 A (SUN et al) 17 October 1995 (17.10.1995)	
A	US 4,709,875 A (CREMOSNIK et al) 01 December 1987 (01.12.1987)	
A	US 5,042,743 A (CARNEY) 27 August 1991 (27.08.1991)	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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