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Functions/Responsibilities

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION  
EXEMPTIONS DO NOT APPLY

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UNCLASSIFIED

5 December 1961

Functions and Responsibilities  
of the  
National Reconnaissance Office (TS)

References:

- (a) Secretary of Defense TOP SECRET memorandum, subject: (TS) Assistant for Reconnaissance, dated September 8, 1961, with attached Department of Defense-Central Intelligence Agency Agreement.
- (b) Deputy Secretary of Defense TOP SECRET memorandum, subject: Space Vehicle Electronics Intelligence Program, dated October 20, 1961, with attachment.

Definitions:

- NRO - National Reconnaissance Office, as established by reference (a).
- NRP - National Reconnaissance Program, as defined by reference (a) to consist of all overt and covert over-flight projects for intelligence, geodesy, and mapping photography and electronic signal collection.
- DOD/AR - Assistant for Reconnaissance to the Secretary of Defense, established and delegated to the Under Secretary of the Air Force by reference (a); Director of the Department of Defense part of the NRO.

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~~CLIA~~  
~~DDP/R~~ - Deputy Director (Plan) of the Central Intelligence Agency, <sup>The</sup> Director of the ~~Agency~~



~~AOC~~ - Aircraft Operations Center - Air Force operations office within the Pentagon for control of special aircraft operations.



Policy:

The following plan outlines basic policy for the establishment of functions and responsibilities within the National Reconnaissance Office to insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in the establishment, management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program.

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**1. Management.**

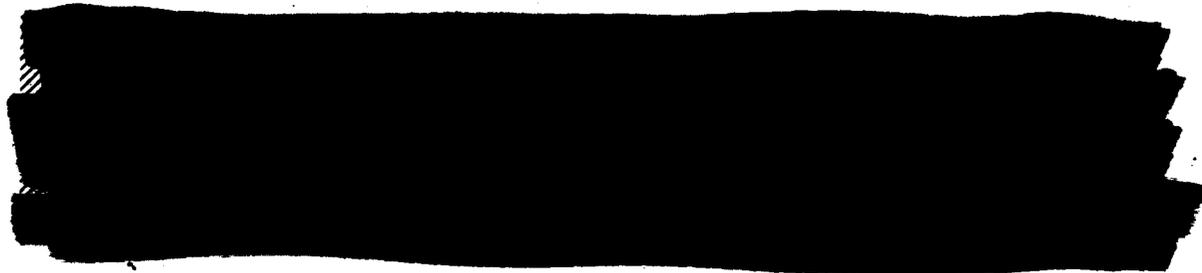
**a. The technical management responsibility for all NRP projects (overt and covert) is assigned to the DOD/AR.**

**(1) To provide for full use of available capabilities and resources, and to provide for interface with data exploitation equipment development by agencies outside the NRO, <sup>Army</sup> Navy and <sup>Air Force</sup> Army representatives will be assigned, on a full-time basis, to appropriate positions within the NRO under the DOD/AR. They will be technically qualified in electronic signal collection work and in mapping and geodesy, respectively, and have NRO project responsibilities in these areas.**

**(2) A firm liaison channel between the NRO and NSA will be established as an adjunct to the technical management structure of signal collection projects, and the conduct of such projects carried out in accordance with the NSA responsibilities described in reference**

**(a). Planning will encompass maximum utilization of the Navy technical resources to support the electronic signal collection programs.**

**b. Financial management**



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(2) With respect to contracts, all NRP project contracts will be the responsibility of DOD/AR, as a necessary corollary to the assignment of technical management responsibility to DOD/AR. However, covert ("black") contracts which provide cover for or enhance the security of specific projects may be the responsibility of the <sup>CIA</sup> NSA when the <sup>Director of CIA, or his nominee,</sup> DOD/AR and the NSA agree that such action offers a preferable route. This includes establishment of dummy corporations, etc., to provide cover for covert operations, and any other contractual action which is necessary for the NRP and which can be provided in a preferred manner by the Agency.

<sup>DOD/AR</sup>  
2. Security. The NSA will be responsible for the overall security policy for the National Reconnaissance Program. Under this overall policy, security of the NRP will be administered for DOD by DOD/AR, through control officers in the JCS, Army, Air Force, and Navy staffs, the DIA and the NSA, <sup>and for the CIA by the Director, or his nominee,</sup> For the collection programs, final need-to-know validation authority will be the responsibility of DOD/AR.

3. Operations:

a. Scheduling. The mission schedule for all NRP efforts will be the sole responsibility of DOD/AR, including the obtaining of appropriate clearances where required.

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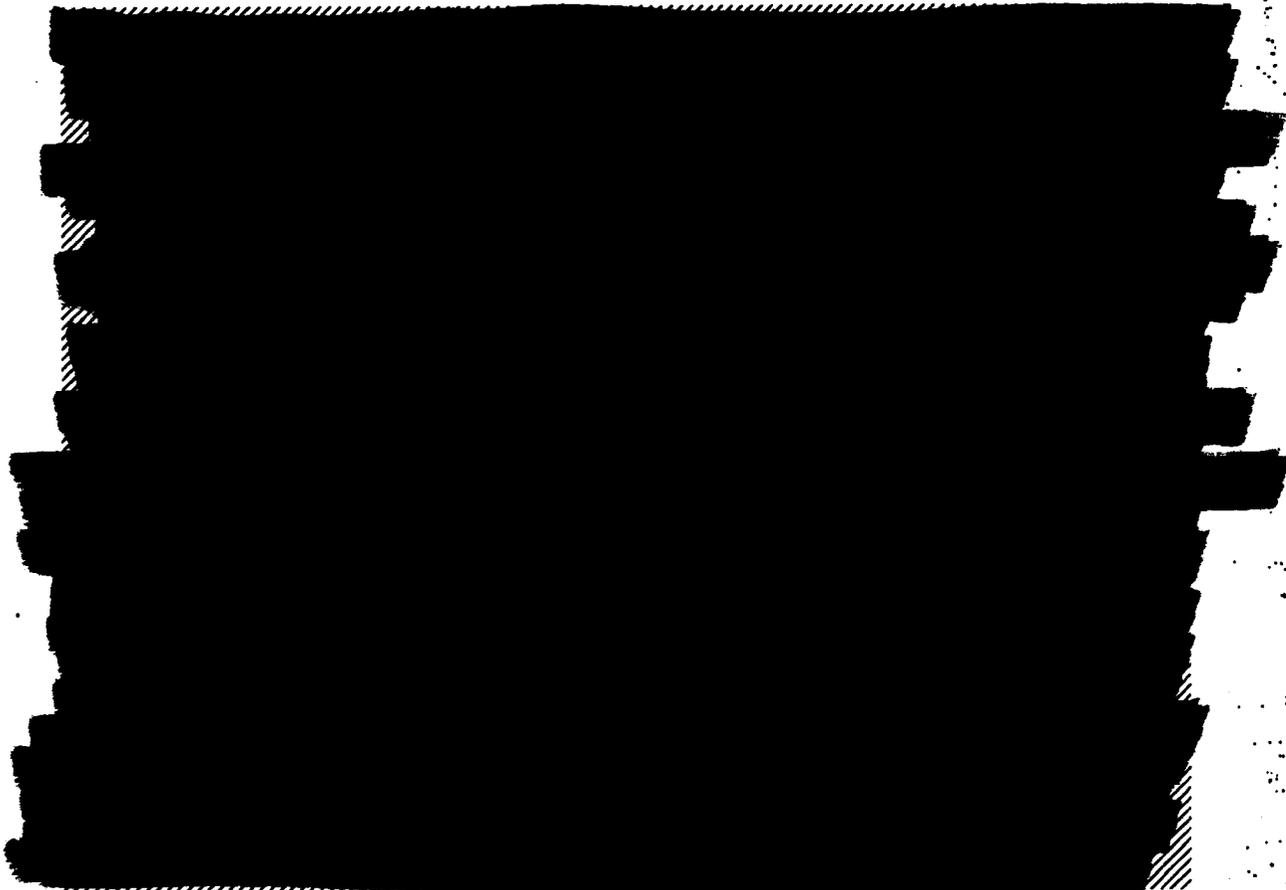
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b. Mission Operations



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c. Formatting. The DOD/AR will be responsible for the formatting of the collected NRP product as follows:

(1) Photographic formatting will include the initial chemical processing, titling, production and delivery to the users as specified by the UNIB.

(2) Electronic signal data formatting will include the decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected signal data to yield a usable collection product. DOD/AR will deliver the formatted collection product, together with associated

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data necessary for exploitation, to the NSA or other user as specified by the USIB.

d. Engineering Analysis. The DOD/AR will be responsible for engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating system as well as to provide information for new systems.

4. The primary responsibility for advanced plans (post CY 1962) for all NRP projects is assigned to the DOD/AR.

5. The USIB will establish or validate all requirements for the NRP and establish broad project and overall target priorities. However, they will not determine schedules, or determine targets for particular missions. COMOR will not be involved with the NRO or NRP, except as required to advise USIB in the determination of NRP requirements and broad priorities. Selection of targets for specific missions and target decisions during conduct of missions will be made by the NRO [REDACTED] using USIB requirements, priorities and target lists.