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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

16 June 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY)

SUBJECT: Proposed DOD Directive on the NRO

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, Subj: Implementation of
Executive Order 12036, dtd 9 June 1978

De [REDACTED] (35-78)

As I told you during our discussion on Friday, 16 June, I am forwarding herewith our recommended changes to the proposed DOD Directive on the NRO. Two major factors were considered in redrafting the directive:

a. The role that you and Gerry Dinneen play as principal staff assistants to the Secretary of Defense for the NRP is clearly delineated.

b. The directive is carefully written in order not to impinge on the established DCI prerogatives with respect to the NRP (e.g., tasking and security policy).

I think the enclosed draft strikes a balance between the need to recognize the present organizational environment and the necessity to make the directive on the NRO as definitive as possible with respect to the functions and responsibilities of the DNRO.

I am pleased that you agree with the suggested changes we have made to the draft directive. The two suggestions that you made during our meeting (the inclusion of the Secretary of Defense's authority as specified in the Executive Order 12036 and the clarification of SIGINT satellite operations) have been included.

The directive as it stands is a good one and I believe that we can operate successfully under its provisions.

[REDACTED]

HANS MARK

3 Attachments

1. Draft DOD Dir
2. Rationale for Changes
3. Annotated Draft DOD Dir

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PA

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PROPOSED CHANGES

(Changes in italics, page numbers keyed to DUSD (Policy) draft)

1. Page 1, para II., first paragraph, line 4. Recommend the second sentence be modified to read: "The Director *will report directly to the Secretary of Defense* and will be responsible for consolidation of all Department of Defense *reconnaissance* satellite projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping imagery and *satellite* electronic signal collection into"

Rationale: Phrase is added to clearly delineate the direct line of authority from the Secretary of Defense to the DNRO. The word *reconnaissance* is added to differentiate mapping, charting and geodesy support provided by the NRO from that provided by NASA. The word *satellite* is added to clarify electronic signal collection as satellite only.

2. Page 2, para II., first paragraph, lines 4 through 10. Recommend the last three sentences of para II. be deleted: "These are to stated requirements."

3. Page 2, para II., first paragraph. Recommend the following sentence be added: "*The Director shall consider the needs of military operational forces in the formulation and implementation of the Program.*"

Rationale: The DNRO has no collection tasking responsibility and hence cannot "ensure appropriate satellite reconnaissance support to deployed military operational forces."

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The sentence, as modified, recognizes the expanding NRO interfaces and stipulates the need for the NRO to be cognizant of the requirements of military operational forces. This sentence is in the latest DUSD(P) draft under relationships. It is more appropriately included under II., Organization and Responsibility.

4. Page 2, para III. A. 1. Recommend para A. 1. be deleted and the following paragraphs inserted:

"1. Work directly with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Communications, Command, Control, and Intelligence) on programs and budgets, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on requirements, security, and priorities. These two officials are principal staff assistants to the Secretary of Defense for the National Reconnaissance Program and the Director will respond as appropriate to special tasks approved by these officials.

"2. Provide quarterly reports to the Department of Defense Inspector General on Intelligence concerning the legality and propriety of NRO collection activities.

"3. Keep the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) informed on overall budget matters."

Rationale: As the recommended wording is paraphrased from the 6 March 1978 memorandum, it is believed that it reflects the spirit and intent of the DUSD(P) and ASD (C³I) relationship with respect to the DNRO. The addition of the paragraph on

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the Department of Defense Inspector General on Intelligence recognizes this role in oversight of the NRO.

5. Page 2, para III. A. 2. Recommend this paragraph be redesignated 4. and be changed to read: "Inform other" vice "Similarly inform"

Rationale: Consistency.

6. Page 2, para III. A. 3. Recommend the following changes to the paragraph: ". . . the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the *Defense Mapping Agency*."

Rationale: Reference to NSA is deleted and phraseology from para IV. A. 3. describing the NSA and NRO relationships is included as new paragraph III. A. 6. DMA has requested they be added to this paragraph. NRO concurs.

7. Page 3, para III. A. 5. Recommend para be deleted.

Rationale: The requirement for considering the needs of military operational forces more appropriately belongs under para II., Organization and Responsibility.

8. Page 3, para III. B., second sentence. Recommend sentence beginning "The Director will respond" be deleted.

Rationale: A slight modification in wording is included in paragraph III. A. 1.

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9. Page 3, para III., last sentence. Recommend the following phrase be added to the end of this paragraph: ". . . concerned *although these staff elements will not participate in these project matters except as he specifically requests and these projects will not be subject to normal Department of Defense review except as specified in para III. A. 1. and 2. above.*"

Rationale: The inclusion of this phraseology continues a long-standing policy and is essential to ensure the continued streamlined operation of the NRO.

10. Page 4, para IV. A. 3. Recommend the following phrases be added to this paragraph: ". . . of satellite reconnaissance, and *reconnaissance* satellite-related mapping and geodesy matters, including *managing the research, development, acquisition, and operation of both imagery and satellite* electronic signal projects"

Rational: The word reconnaissance added to differentiate between NRO support to mapping, charting and geodesy community and not provided by NASA. This phrase provides clear delineation of the DNRO's authority in the area of operational control over NRP satellites. This clarification is consistent with para 1-1202(a) of E.O. 12036 as well as para VI. A. 1. of the proposed DOD Directive 5100.20 on NSA. The word photographic is changed to imagery for consistency. The word satellite is added for clarification.

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11. Page 4, para IV. A. 3., second sentence. Recommend the following sentence be included as para III. A. 6.: *"For matters related to satellite collected SIGINT, the Director, ~~(S)~~-NRO and the Director, NSA, will work in coordination."*

Rationale: Wording which indicates the NRO/NSA relationship is more suitably included under para III., Relationships.

12. Page 5, para VI. B. Recommend the paragraph be rewritten as follows: *". . . National Reconnaissance Program will be subject to special controls in appropriate compartmented system(s), except in those instances specifically exempted by ~~(S)~~ Director National Reconnaissance Office"*

Rationale: This wording, which is taken from the 1964 DoD Directive on the NRO, was selected, at that time, to enable publication at the TOP SECRET non-compartmented level. Although DIA has ~~security~~ security responsibility for all other DOD intelligence activities, references to Director, DIA cognizance over the ~~system~~ system, when it applies to the NRP, are inappropriate. Responsibility for security policy which encompasses the ~~system~~ system rests with the DCI. Per the ~~Control System~~ Control System Manual and the still operative 1965 DepSecDef/DCI Agreement on the NRP, the responsibility for the operation of the ~~system~~ system has been delegated directly from the DCI to the DNRO.

13. Page 5, para VI. B. Recommend the following phrase be deleted: *". . . or the Deputy Under Secretary (Policy) acting for the Secretary of Defense."*

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Rationale: This provision is not a restraining provision. It would be operative only in a circumstance which would make security practices more lenient. Such determinations can best be made by the DNRO in accordance with published DCI guidelines. Responsibility for exceptions to the [REDACTED] system is the explicit responsibility of the DNRO in coordination with the DC [REDACTED] Control System Manual).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

- REFERENCES: (a) DoD Directive TS 5105.23, subject as above, dated March 27, 1964 (hereby cancelled)
- (b) Executive Order 12036, "United States Intelligence Activities," January 26, 1978
- (c) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum of March 6, 1978, "Implementation of Executive Order 12036"

I. GENERAL

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense and the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, including the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, a ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office is hereby established as an operating agency of the Department of Defense, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of Defense.

II. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office will be organized separately within the Department of Defense under a ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, appointed by the Secretary of Defense. The Director will report directly to the Secretary of Defense and will be responsible for consolidation of all Department of Defense reconnaissance satellite projects for intelligence,

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geodesy and mapping imagery, and satellite electronic signal collection into a single program, defined as the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, and for the complete management and conduct of this Program in accordance with policy guidance and decisions under the direction, operation, control, and fiscal management of the Secretary of Defense. The Director shall consider the needs of military operational forces in the formulation and implementation of the Program.

III. RELATIONSHIPS

- A. In carrying out his responsibilities for the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office shall:
1. Work directly with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Communications, Command, Control, and Intelligence) on programs and budgets, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on requirements, security, and priorities. These two officials are the principal staff assistants to the Secretary of Defense for the National Reconnaissance Program and the Director will respond as appropriate to special tasks as approved by these officials.
 2. Provide quarterly reports to the Department of Defense Inspector General on Intelligence

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concerning the legality and propriety of NRO collection activities.

3. Keep the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) informed on overall budget matters.
 4. Inform other Department of Defense personnel as he may determine necessary in the course of carrying out specific project matters.
 5. Establish appropriate interfaces between the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office and the National Foreign Intelligence Board, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Defense Mapping Agency.
 6. Work in coordination with the Director, NSA on matters related to satellite collected SIGINT.
 7. Where appropriate, make use of qualified personnel of services and agencies of the Department of Defense as full-time members of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
- B. Officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military departments, and other DOD agencies shall provide support within their respective fields of responsibility, to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, as may be necessary for the Director to carry out his assigned responsibilities

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will report directly to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, will be given support as required from normal staff elements of the military departments and agencies concerned, although these staff elements will not participate in these project matters except as he specifically requests and these projects will not be subject to normal Department of Defense review except as specified in para III. A. 1. and 2. above.

IV. AUTHORITIES

- A. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, in connection with his assigned responsibilities for the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office and the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, is hereby specifically delegated authority subject to the direction, operation, control and fiscal management of the Secretary of Defense to:
1. Organize, staff, and supervise the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
 2. Establish, manage and conduct the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program.
 3. Assist the Secretary of Defense in the supervision of satellite reconnaissance, and

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reconnaissance satellite-related mapping and geodesy matters, including managing the research, development, acquisition, and operation of both imagery and satellite electronic signal projects, and be his direct representative on these matters both within and outside the Department of Defense.

4. Review all Department of Defense budget requests and expenditures for any items falling within the definition of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, including studies and preliminary research and development of components and techniques to support such existing or future projects.

B. Other authorities specifically delegated to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, by the Secretary of Defense will be referenced in numbered enclosures to this directive.

V. PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

All projects falling within the definition of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program are assigned to that program and will be managed as outlined herein unless specific exception is made by the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. Announcement of any such exceptions will be made by numbered enclosures to this directive.

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VI. SECURITY

- A. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office will establish the security procedures to be followed for all matters of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, including suitable unclassified names and functions to protect all elements of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
- B. All communications pertaining to matters under the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program will be subject to special controls in appropriate compartmented control systems(s), except in those instances specifically exempted by ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office.
- C. With the single exception of this directive, no mention will be made of the following titles or their abbreviations in any document which is not controlled under the special security control system(s) referred to in B. above: ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program; ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office. Where absolutely necessary to refer to the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program in communications not controlled under the prescribed special security systems, such reference will be made by use of the terminology: "Office for the collection of specialized intelligence through reconnaissance programs."

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VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication.

VIII. CANCELLATION

Reference (a) is hereby cancelled.

Deputy Secretary of Defense

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SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

- REFERENCES: (a) DoD Directive TS 5105.23, subject as above, dated March 27, 1964 (hereby cancelled)
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I. GENERAL

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense and the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, including the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, a ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office is hereby established as an operating agency of the Department of Defense, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of Defense.

II. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office will be organized separately within the Department of Defense under a ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, appointed by the Secretary of Defense. ^{WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE} The Director ^{RECONNAISSANCE} will be responsible for consolidation of all Department of Defense, satellite projects for intelligence, ^{SATELLITE} geodesy and mapping imagery, and electronic signal collection into a single program, defined as the ~~(S)~~

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Page 1 of Pag
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National Reconnaissance Program, and for the complete management and conduct of this Program in accordance with policy guidance and decisions, and under the direction, operation, control, and fiscal management of the Secretary of Defense. There are two offices specifically charged with assisting the Secretary of Defense in exercising these responsibilities. The ASD(CSI) will have responsibility for technical and programmatic aspects, including research, systems development and acquisition. The Deputy Under Secretary (Policy) will formulate policy, validate all requirements and ensure that programs respond to stated requirements.

THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSIDER THE NEEDS OF OPERATIONAL FORCES IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

III. RELATIONSHIPS

A. In carrying out his responsibilities for the (S) National Reconnaissance Program, the (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office shall:

WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1. ~~Keep the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (Communications, Command, Control & Intelligence) on programs and budgets, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Policy) on requirements, security and~~
THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY) ON REQUIREMENTS, SECURITY AND PRIORITIES. THESE TWO OFFICIALS ARE THE PRINCIPAL STAFF ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM AND THE DIRECTOR WILL RESPOND, AS APPROPRIATE, TO SPECIAL TASKS ASSIGNED BY THESE OFFICERS

2. Similarly inform other Department of Defense personnel as he may determine necessary in the course of carrying out specific project matters.

3. Establish appropriate interfaces between the (S) National Reconnaissance Office and the National Foreign Intelligence Board, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency.

2. PROVIDE QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL ON INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, SECURITY AND PROPRIETY OF AWD COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

3. KEEP THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER) INFORMED ON OVERALL BUDGET MATTERS

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RELATED TO SECURITY - COLLECTED SIGINT
7. If appropriate, make use of qualified personnel of services and agencies of the Department of Defense as full-time members of the (S) National Reconnaissance Office.

5. **Ensure that space assets provide appropriate support to deployed military operational forces.**

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B. Officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military departments, and other DoD agencies shall provide support within their respective fields of responsibility, to the (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office, as may be necessary for the Director to carry out his assigned responsibilities and functions. The

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Director will respond as appropriate to special tasks and requests approved by the Deputy Under Secretary (Policy) or the ASD(C3I).

Streamlined management procedures will be utilized whereby individual project directors will report directly to the (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office, will be given support as required from normal staff elements of the military departments and agencies concerned.

ALTHOUGH THESE STAFF ELEMENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECT MATTERS EXCEPT AS HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS A THESE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AGENCIES EXCEPT AS

IV. AUTHORITIES

A. The (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office, in connection with his assigned responsibilities for the (S) National Reconnaissance Office and the (S) National

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Reconnaissance Program, is hereby specifically delegated authority, subject to the direction, operation, control and fiscal management of the Secretary of Defense, to:

1. Organize, staff, and supervise the (S) National Reconnaissance Office.
2. Establish, manage and conduct the (S) National Reconnaissance Program.
3. Assist the Secretary of Defense in the supervision of satellite reconnaissance, and satellite-related mapping and geodesy ^{RECONNAISSANCE} matters, including, both photographic and electronic signal ^{MANAGES THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION AND OPERATIONAL} _{METHOD} ^{SATELLITE} projects, and be his direct representative on these matters both within and outside the Department of Defense. For

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matters related to satellite collected SIGINT, the Director, (S) INO, and the Director, NSA, will work in coordination.

4. Review all Department of Defense budget requests and expenditures for any items falling within the definition of the (S) National Reconnaissance Program, including studies and preliminary research and development of components and techniques to support such existing or future projects.
5. Other authorities specifically delegated to the (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office, by the Secretary of Defense will be referenced in numbered enclosures to this directive.

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TOP SECRET

V. PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

All projects falling within the definition of the (S) National Reconnaissance Program are assigned to that program and will be managed as outlined herein unless specific exception is made by the (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office. Announcements of any such exceptions will be made by numbered enclosures to this directive.

VI. SECURITY

- A. The (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office will establish the security procedures to be followed for all matters of the (S) National Reconnaissance Program, including suitable unclassified names and functions to protect all elements of the (S) National Reconnaissance Office.
- B. All communications pertaining to matters under the (S) National Reconnaissance Program will be subject to special ^{CONTROLS IN APPROPRIATE COMPARTMENTED} ~~systems of security control under the~~ ^{SYSTEM(S)} ~~supervision of the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, except in those instances specifically exempted by either (S) Director, National Reconnaissance Office, or the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) acting for the Secretary of Defense.~~
- C. With the single exception of this directive, no mention will be made of the following titles or their abbreviations in any document which is not

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Page 5 of _____
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controlled under the special security control system(s) referred to in B above: ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program; ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office. Where absolutely necessary to refer to the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program in communications not controlled under the prescribed special security systems, such reference will be made by use of the terminology:

"Office for the collection of specialized intelligence through reconnaissance programs."

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication.

VIII. CANCELLATION

Reference (a) is hereby cancelled.

Deputy Secretary of Defense

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TOP SECRET

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Page 6 of _____ P
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