

Intelligence Satellite Photos Released

24 April 96

More than 300,000 satellite photographs collected by the U.S. intelligence community between 1960 and 1972 are now available from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). You can use the Internet to browse the entire collection on the World Wide Web (URL: <http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/dclass/dclass.html>), or stop by a USGS Earth Science Information Center to get a first-hand view.

This collection adds more than a decade worth of records to the Landsat collection that has been available for civilian use since July 1972. Compare these images from the 1960's with today's images to see how our built environment and our natural systems such as lakes, rivers and streams, forests, grasslands, and other land cover have changed. Look at not only the United States but also much of the world.

Declassification of these photo reconnaissance missions was authorized by an [Executive Order](#), signed by President Clinton on February 23, 1995. The entire collection of more than 800,000 declassified photos is slated to incrementally reach [USGS](#) archives by the end of the summer of 1996.

For example, center-pivot irrigation systems (identifiable by the large circles) have more than tripled in the region near Hastings, Nebraska, since November 1968. The expanded use of irrigation is of interest to resource managers concerned with increased draws on the underlying Ogallala aquifer.

For example, in the Cape Canaveral, Florida, image pair, the Landsat MSS image (acquired March 1992) shows how agricultural use of a marshy region near Cape Canaveral has expanded since the declassified image was acquired (Mission 9059A, October 30, 1963). In the older declassified image the region is dissected by ponds and small stream channels. In the Landsat image, acquired more than 28 years later, many of the small streams have been modified by dams and reservoirs, a network of roads has been constructed in the area, and agricultural development has increased.

An online catalog and image browse capability for the photo collection is accessible, at no charge, on the Internet through the U.S. Geological Survey's Global Land Information System (GLIS). For more information about Declassified Intelligence Satellite Photographs (DISP) and how to use the online GLIS catalog for data searching, refer to the World Wide Web DISP user guide at: URL: <http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/glis/hyper/guide/disp>

For information on ordering Declassified Intelligence Satellite Photographs, contact any Earth Science Information Center or call 1-800-USA-MAPS. The cost of each photograph typically ranges from \$12 to \$24 plus \$3.50 handling on each order.

For Technical information on Declassified Intelligence Satellite Photographs contact:

U.S. Geological Survey

EROS Data Center

Customer Services

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