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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
OPERATIONS PROCEDURES

MARCH 1987

(S) PROCEDURES

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

EMERGENCY RECOVERY OF SATELLITE DEBRIS

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OFFICIAL:

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Director  
NRO Staff

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NRO OPERATIONS PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: [ ] ~~(C)~~ Procedures--Emergency Recovery of Satellite Debris

(b)(1)  
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1. ~~(TS)~~ Purpose. This document establishes responsibilities, policy and procedures for requesting emergency recovery of classified satellite vehicle debris resulting from launch failure or an anomalous deorbit. The attachments establish the procedures to be followed by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Duty Officer (DO) when requesting an emergency recovery operation.

2. (U) Background.

a. ~~(TS)~~ The NRO is engaged in activities of great importance to the national security which must be protected by stringent security measures. The NRO is, therefore, concerned that classified satellite debris may come down during an emergency in an area not accessible to dedicated recovery units. This requires procedures that provide for rapid collection and assessment of information and deployment of available assets to an emergency landing area when necessary.

b. ~~(S)~~ The Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS) has the authority to initiate the rapid deployment of available assets to an emergency landing area in response to an NRO request for search and recovery (SAR) assistance.

3. ~~(TS)~~ Responsibilities. The NRO DO is the focal point for coordination between all elements of the NRO and the OJCS National Military Command System (J-36), Space Response Cell (SRC) for the support from the unified and specified commands for search and recovery assistance, and other assistance as required. The NRO DO will become familiar with the communications channels necessary to effect a rapid response in the event [ ] procedures must be implemented; maintain cognizance on all pending launches and deorbits; and will advise the OJCS/SRC of changes to NRO launch and deorbit dates. When an operational event is scheduled the NRO DO will be present to monitor the activity and request [ ] procedures, if necessary. The NRO DO will request the OJCS/SRC to initiate emergency search and recovery actions in accordance with the following procedures:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

a. ~~(TS)~~ When [ ] procedures must be implemented, the NRO DO will perform the procedures in Atch 1--Checklist 1: Emergency Recovery of Satellite Debris. The request for initiation of [ ] will be via AUTOSEVOCOM (KY-3) from the NRO to the SRC. Normally, no written request will be issued.

b. ~~(S)~~ The NRO DO will obtain prior approval from one of the following individuals before contacting the OJCS to request the initiation of emergency search and recovery assistance:

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Director, NRO (DNRO)  
Deputy Director, NRO (DDNRO)  
Director, NRO Staff (NRO)

c. ~~(S)~~ The NRO DO will maintain close contact with the appropriate NRO operating units and the SRC and provide additional information as it becomes known.

d. ~~(S)~~ The NRO DO will keep the DNRO, DDNRO, the NRO Staff Director, and others as appropriate, informed regarding recovery operations. The NRO DO will maintain a journal of [ ] operational events which will include, at a minimum, a description of key events, time and date of each event, and names of individuals involved.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

Attachments:

1. Checklist 1: Emergency Recovery of Satellite Debris
2. Time Sensitive Requirement (TSR) Request
3. Key Personnel Phone List

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CHECKLIST 1

EMERGENCY RECOVERY OF SATELLITE DEBRIS

- 1. THIS CHECKLIST IS USED WHEN AN NRO PAYLOAD HAS FAILED TO ACHIEVE ORBIT DUE TO A LAUNCH FAILURE OR WHEN AN ANOMALOUS DEORBIT OCCURS AND

PROCEDURES MUST BE INITIATED.

NRO DO \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. OBTAIN  APPROVAL AUTHORITY. CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, IN THE ORDER LISTED, TO OBTAIN APPROVAL AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH EMERGENCY SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIONS. IF AFTER HOURS, THE PHONE NUMBERS ARE:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

HOME PHONE

HOME KY-71

DNRO

DDNRO

DIRECTOR, NRO STAFF

(b)(3)

(NOTE: THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE CALLED ON THE OPEN LINE FIRST TO REQUEST THEY BRING THEIR KY-71 "UP" SO THEY CAN BE CONTACTED.)

- a. SAMPLE FORMAT:

"THIS IS \_\_\_\_\_ (NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ FROM THE NRO STAFF. WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE LAUNCH OF MISSION \_\_\_\_\_ WAS UNSUCCESSFUL (OR WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT MISSION \_\_\_\_\_ HAS EXPERIENCED AN ANOMALOUS DEORBIT). I AM CALLING TO OBTAIN YOUR APPROVAL TO INITIATE EMERGENCY SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIONS AND TIME SENSITIVE TASKING OF OVERHEAD COLLECTORS THROUGH THE OJCS. PERTINENT INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:"

ATCH 1

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 Decl  Review On: \_\_\_\_\_  
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LAUNCH SITE \_\_\_\_\_ (LAUNCH FAILURE ONLY)

LAUNCH/LIFT OFF TIME \_\_\_\_\_ Z (LAUNCH FAILURE ONLY)

IMPACT AREA \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF IMPACT \_\_\_\_\_ Z

BEACON FREQUENCIES (IF KNOWN):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION (SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. DEBRIS TO BE SALVAGED/DESTROYED: \_\_\_\_\_

c. INDIVIDUAL CONTACTED (DNRO, DDNRO, DIR NRO STAFF): \_\_\_\_\_

d. APPROVAL AUTHORITY WAS OBTAINED/DENIED:

SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

TIME-SENSITIVE TASKING \_\_\_\_\_

e. DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

f. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. INITIATE  PROCEDURES:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

a. CONTACT THE J-36 SPACE RESPONSE CELL AND REQUEST THAT

PROCEDURES BE INITIATED. OJCS/SRC PHONE NUMBERS ARE:

KY-3:  GRAY:  BLACK:

(b)(3)

Derivative Of By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(NOTE: IF UNABLE TO CONTACT THE SRC ON A SECURE LINE, EITHER FROM THE NRO TO THE SRC, OR THE SRC TO THE NRO, THEN AN ALTERNATE MEANS OF PASSING THE INFORMATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED, SUCH AS A PERSONAL VISIT TO THE OJCS/SRC. IN THIS CASE, THE NRO DO SHOULD REQUEST TO BE MET BY THE SRC AT THE OJCS GUARD POST 3, FIRST FLOOR.)

b. SAMPLE FORMAT:

"THIS IS THE NRO DUTY OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_ (NAME) \_\_\_\_\_. I HAVE AN URGENT REQUEST FOR \_\_\_\_\_ ASSISTANCE TO SEARCH AND RECOVER CLASSIFIED SATELLITE VEHICLE DEBRIS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR NEED FOR THIS ASSISTANCE, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ PROCEDURES LOCATED IN YOUR OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE COPY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:"

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

MISSION \_\_\_\_\_

LAUNCH SITE \_\_\_\_\_ (LAUNCH FAILURE ONLY)

LAUNCH/LIFT OFF TIME \_\_\_\_\_ Z (LAUNCH FAILURE ONLY)

IMPACT AREA \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF IMPACT \_\_\_\_\_

BEACON FREQUENCIES (IF KNOWN)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION (I.E., DESCRIPTION OF DEBRIS)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION OF DEBRIS \_\_\_\_\_

Derivative CI By \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. TIME-SENSITIVE REQUIREMENT (TSR):

TIME-SENSITIVE TASKING OF THE OVERHEAD COLLECTORS MAY BE REQUIRED DURING  
 OPERATIONS TO REPORT REACTIONS TO THE LAUNCH FAILURE/ANOMALOUS  
DEORBIT BY NON-U.S. ENTITIES. THE OJCS/SRC CAN ISSUE A TSR TO THE OCMC  
AND/OR THE CSC AT NRO REQUEST.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

TSR REQUIRED: YES/NO

IF YES, FILL OUT ATCH 2--TSR REQUEST--AND PASS INFO TO OJCS/SRC VIA SECURE

KY-3

(b)(3)

5. OBTAIN POINT OF CONTACT AT LAUNCH SITE/PROGRAM OFFICE:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY OJCS/SRC: \_\_\_\_\_

6. COMPLETE NOTIFICATION OF CONCERNED NRO PERSONNEL:

AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING NRO PERSONNEL SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN THE EVENT  
OF A LAUNCH FAILURE/ANOMALOUS DEORBIT (SEE ATCH 3: KEY PERSONNEL PHONE  
LIST):

DATE/TIME NOTIFIED

DNRO	_____
DDNRO	_____
DIRECTOR, NRO STAFF	_____
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR S&T	_____

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLICY  
AND SECURITY

CHIEF, POLICY AND OPERATIONS BR  
PROGRAM ELEMENT MONITOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. CONTINUE TO MONITOR, AND LOG KEY EVENTS AND ACTIONS.

8. TERMINATION OF  RECOVERY OPERATIONS:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

DNRO TERMINATION RECOMMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

OJCS/SRC NOTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_

9. PREPARE A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF NRO POCKETBOOK OPERATIONS.

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TIME SENSITIVE REQUIREMENT (TSR) REQUEST

1. REQUEST THAT THE OJCS/SRC PREPARE AND ISSUE A TSR FOR THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT ON THE EVENT REPORTED IN CHECKLIST 1.

a. PRIORITY REQUESTED: IMMEDIATE/FLASH

b. DISCIPLINES(S): COMINT / OPELINT / PHOTINT / HUMINT

c. SUBJECT OF TSR: REENTRY COVERAGE

d. DURATION OF COVERAGE:

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ STOP TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(DD/MON/YR/TIMEZ) (DD/MON/YR/TIMEZ)

e. AREA OF INTEREST: 300 NM RADIUS OF REENTRY POINT

IMPACT LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

f. SIGNALS OF INTEREST: ALL NON-US SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE VESSELS WITHIN THE AOI

g. STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT: REPORT ALL REACTIONS TO THE REENTRY BY NON-US ENTITIES; OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE SOVIET REACTIONS.

2. BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:

THE MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING OR OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF DEBRIS OR POTENTIAL RETRIEVAL ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IS CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

ATCH 2

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KEY PERSONNEL PHONE LIST

NAME

Black

Red

Home

Mr. E. C. Aldridge, Jr.

D/NRO

Mr. Jimmie D. Hill

DD/NRO

BGen Don Hard

Director,  
NRO Staff

Maj Dean Rakoskie

EXO

Col Hal Gordon

Dep Dir  
for Policy  
& Security

Dep Dir for  
Systems &  
Technology

Asst Dep Dir  
for Imagery

Asst Dep Dir  
for SIGINT

NRO Security

Lt Col Phil Datema

Chief, Plans  
& Operations  
Branch

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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(b)(1)

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KEY PERSONNEL PHONE LIST

NAME

Black

Red

Home

Lt Col Bob Peterson

DMSP PEM

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

NRO Operations

LTC Terry Cooney

NRO Operations

Lt Col Russ Cykoski

Launch Vehicles

HANDLE VIA

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CONTROL SYSTEM

CLASSIFIED BY TKM 1

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