

TOP SECRET

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY....

1. This Program was the very first SIGINT Satellite program to place an ELINT collection satellite in orbit (June 1960) where it demonstrated the capability of intercepting data from 750 mc portion of S-Band. The system was very carefully tried out on the first day of American Statehood for our 50 th state (Hawaii) at the Naval Communications station at Wahahiawa on 4 July 1960. The President maintained very tight control of the tasking since this flight followed the U-2 flap by only a couple of months. In fact President Eisenhower personally had to approve each of the 22 times that this payload was turned on over the Russian Area. It lasted only about 90 ~~ex~~ due to a battery/power supply problem, but it did very definitely establish the trends of the future.

2. At this time the program since its inception has successfully built and flown ~~xxxx~~ a total of 18 satellites. The longest flight useful lifetime has been 7103C with 4 years and 9 days of data collection time to its credit.

3. The US Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC has two teams which cooperate in the design and development of these ^{POPPY} satellite systems as well as the data collection instrumentation at the overseas sites. The first ^{or ELINT} team at NRL, ~~xxx~~ has about a dozen men working full time in the area of the satellite SIGINT receiving systems and the overseas data receiving, recording, timing and interrogation systems. This team is essentially the same group who ^{got approval on original project proposal in 1959} ~~sold the proposal to start the POPPY project in the first place.~~ The second NRL-team is the group of about 55 men who design, ~~and~~ construct, ~~and~~ calibrate and launch these ^{POPPY} satellites ^{other Scientific Satellites} for the NAVY. This team has many customers in the Scientific community and you occasionally may hear other satellites, up there, which sound very much like our own and this may explain some of these similarities.

4. About 90 to 100 man-years of effort are expended at NRL each year in the fantastically intricate business of "giving Birth" to these satellites which have a development period of about two years...This program remains as one of the major areas of effort at the Naval Research Laboratory, and is funded to about \$7½ million per year. The National Priority remains equal to the highest in the nation and the performance has been getting better all the time.

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HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN *Robert K. Kighalsky*
CONTROL SYSTEM *Jointly*