

~~TOP SECRET~~

7-12-68

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~EARPOP EARPOP~~

SYSTEM ONLY

1968

THIS BRIEFING IS DESIGNED TO SERVE AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NAVY'S COVERT ELINT SATELLITE PROGRAM. DURING THE BRIEFING THE SECURITY OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE EXPLAINED, THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM, THE CONTROLLING ORGANIZATION AND THE SATELLITE SYSTEM WILL BE DESCRIBED, AND FUTURE PLANS DISCUSSED.

AS THIS IS A COVERT, OR "BLACK" PROGRAM, THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF IT ARE VERY SENSITIVE AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FIRST. THE PROGRAM IS "TOP SECRET", IS HANDLED IN THE COMPARTMENTED "BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM" AND IS UNDER THE SPECIAL CAVEAT "EARPOP". AFTER THE NEED TO KNOW HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, A PERSON MUST HAVE A "TOP SECRET - BYEMAN - EARPOP" CLEARANCE FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM.

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CONTROL CONTROL

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THE ENTIRE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM IS DIRECTED BY THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE. THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE, OR **NRO**, WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE DIRECTOR OF ~~THE~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ~~AGENCY~~ IN 1962 TO SUPERVISE THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM. THE NRO IS A COVERT ORGANIZATION BURIED IN THE AIR FORCE, IT IS ESTABLISHED AS SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING DIAGRAM.

(SLIDE)

DR. FLAX, AS DIRECTOR OF THE NRO, SUPERVISES ALL ASPECTS OF THE AIR FORCE, CIA AND NAVY COVERT SATELLITE PROGRAMS. THE NAVY PROGRAM IS KNOWN AS PROGRAM "C" AND THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR INTELLIGENCE IS THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C". (INCIDENTALLY

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THE NAME "PROGRAM C" IS UNCLASSIFIED AND IS NORMALLY USED IN GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM TO EASE THE SECURITY RESTRICTIONS IN CORRESPONDENCE). THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C" CONTROLS THE ONLY NAVY COVERT SATELLITE SYSTEM, AN ELINT SYSTEM CALLED "POPPY", WITH THE ORGANIZATION SHOWN ON THIS CHART:

(SLIDE)

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C" IS A MEMBER OF THE NRO AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION OF ALL NAVY SATELLITE SYSTEMS THAT ARE A PART OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM. MANAGER OF PROGRAM C MANAGES ALL ASPECTS OF THESE SYSTEMS FOR THE DIRECTOR.

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Control Systems *Jointly*

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NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY DESIGNS AND
BUILDS THE SATELLITES AS WELL AS THE
CONTROL AND READOUT EQUIPMENT.

NAVAL SECURITY COMMAND DIRECTS THE
OPERATIONS OF THE GROUND STATIONS THAT
~~CONTROL~~ ^{TASK} AND "READ OUT" THE SATELLITES.

IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED HERE THAT THE
VERY EXISTANCE OF THE NATIONAL
RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE, THE NAME
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AND EVEN
THE INITIALS "NRO" ARE CLASSIFIED "TOP
SECRET BYEMAN".

THE NAVY'S POPPY PROGRAM, AS A
NATIONAL PROGRAM, IS FUNDED FROM
NATIONAL SOURCES. THE MONEY IS SO
CALLED "BLACK MONEY" AND IS PROVIDED BY
THE NRO COMPTROLLER FOR SATELLITE AND
GROUND EQUIPMENT CONSTRUCTION,
INSTALLATION AND LAUNCHING. ANNUAL COSTS

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OF THE NAVY SATELLITE PROGRAM, PROGRAM "C",
HAVE BEEN AVERAGING APPROXIMATELY 7
MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, EXCLUSIVE OF
LAUNCH COSTS. THE OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL
AT THE GROUND SITES AROUND THE WORLD ARE
PROGRAMMED IN THE (CCP) ^{CONSOLIDATED CRYPTO PROGRAM} AND ARE PROVIDED
FROM SERVICE RESOURCES. APPROXIMATELY
30 MEN ARE INVOLVED AT EACH OF [REDACTED]
GROUND STATIONS.

THE POPPY SATELLITES ARE ACTUALLY TASKED
FOR COLLECTION AND READ OUT ON A PASS-BY-
PASS BASIS FROM ~~THE~~ [REDACTED] WORLD WIDE GROUND
SITES, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AS SHOWN
IN THE ACCOMPANYING SLIDE. [REDACTED]

(SLIDE)

Handle via BYEMAN/*John K. Kuyhole*
Control Systems *partly*

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THE GROUND STATIONS ARE TASKED BY THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVAL SECURITY COMMAND.

(SLIDE)

COMNAVSECCOM RECEIVES DIRECTION FROM THE SATELLITE OPERATIONS CENTER OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (BOTH OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE PENTAGON) WHICH IN TURN IS TASKED BY USIB AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES. THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM C HAS REPRESENTATION ON THE USIB, THE SIGINT COMMITTEE AND THE SIGINT OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE SUBCOMMITTEE.

AFTER THE INITIAL ANALYSIS AT THE FIELD SITE, THE ELINT "TAKE" FROM THE SATELLITES IS FORWARDED TO NSA AT FORT MEADE WHERE IT IS PROCESSED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

IN THE FORM OF PUBLISHED REPORTS

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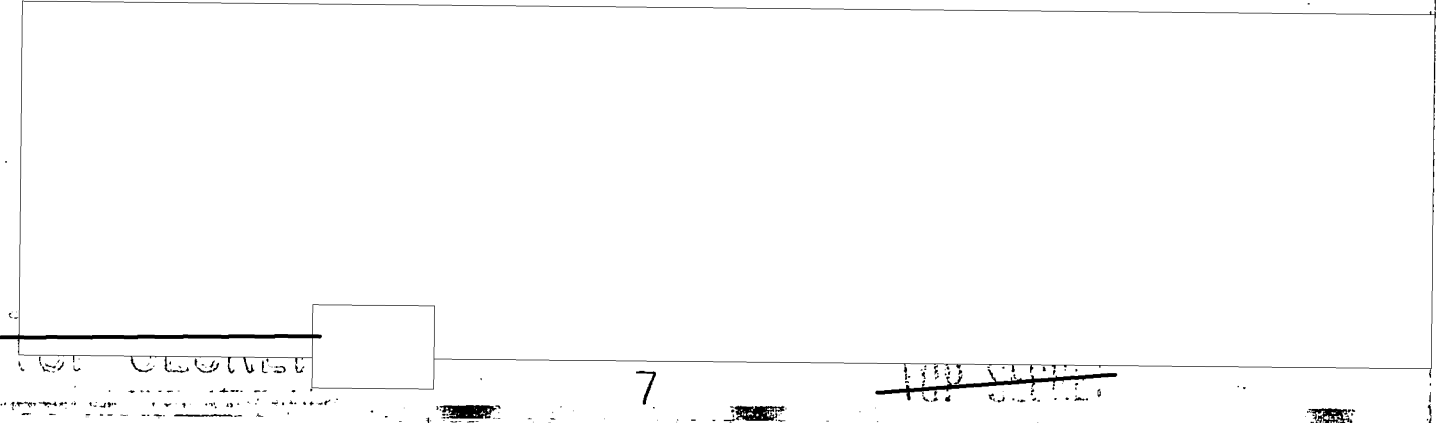
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AT PRESENT ALL THE EFFORTS OF THE NRO
ELINT SATELLITE PROGRAMS ARE DIRECTED
AT COLLECTION AGAINST THE SOVIET ABM
THREAT. (USAF HAS SEVERAL ^{ELINT SYSTEMS} IN "PROGRAM A"
AS WELL AS MANY PHOTO ^{SYSTEMS} ~~PROGRAMS~~) THIS
TASKING HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY THE
PRESIDENT.

THE POPPY SATELLITES ARE GENERAL
SEARCH, TRANSPONDER TYPE ELINT SATELLITES.
THE SATELLITE, OR BALL, CONSISTS OF
CIRCUITRY THAT ENABLES THE BALL TO
TRANSMIT IN REAL TIME AN INTERCEPTED
SIGNAL TO A GROUND STATION FOR RECORDING
AND ANALYSIS. THE SIGNAL FROM THE BALL
PERMITS THE GROUND STATION TO READ OUT



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ON THE GROUND.

AT PRESENT THE NAVY HAS EIGHT BALLS IN ORBIT. FOUR BALLS, IDENTIFIED AS POPPY 7104, WERE LAUNCHED IN MARCH OF 1965 WITH AN ANTICIPATED LIFE OF TWELVE MONTHS. POPPY 7105, ANOTHER FOUR BALL SYSTEM, WAS LAUNCHED IN MAY OF 1967 ALSO WITH AN EXPECTED LIFE OF 12 MONTHS. EVEN THOUGH ALL EIGHT BALLS ARE NO LONGER CONTRIBUTING FULLY (PRIMARILY SUFFERING FROM BATTERY EXHAUSTION) THE POPPY SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONING AND HAVE FAR EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. 7104 HAS CONTRIBUTED OVER 25,000 TAPES OF ELINT AND 7105 OVER 13,000 TAPES.

THE NEXT POPPY LAUNCH, POPPY 7106, ALSO A FOUR BALL SYSTEM, IS SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH IN ^{EARLY} ~~FEBRUARY~~ OF 1969.

Handle via ~~BYEMAN~~ *Valent Keyhol*
Control Systems *Gentle*

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THE SATELLITES ARE NOW BEING ASSEMBLED AND TESTED AT NRL AND WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE WEST COAST FOR LAUNCH. ~~IN LATE~~ ^{2024/06/10} ~~JANUARY~~. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NRO, THE AIR FORCE AT VANDENBERG LAUNCHES THE POPPY SATELLITES FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C". THE AGENA IS THE NORMAL SECOND STAGE LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR POPPY. (THOR 1st)

THE POPPY BALL CONTAINS A SERIES OF RECEIVERS THAT GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE RF SPECTRUM.

(SLIDE)

THE MONITORING GROUND STATIONS TURN ON THE DESIRED RECEIVERS WHEN THE BALL COMES OVER THE STATION'S HORIZON AND ALL SIGNALS IMPINGING ON THE BALL ARE IMMEDIATELY RETRANSMITTED TO THE GROUND STATION FOR RECORDING AND ANALYSIS.

ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNALS IS

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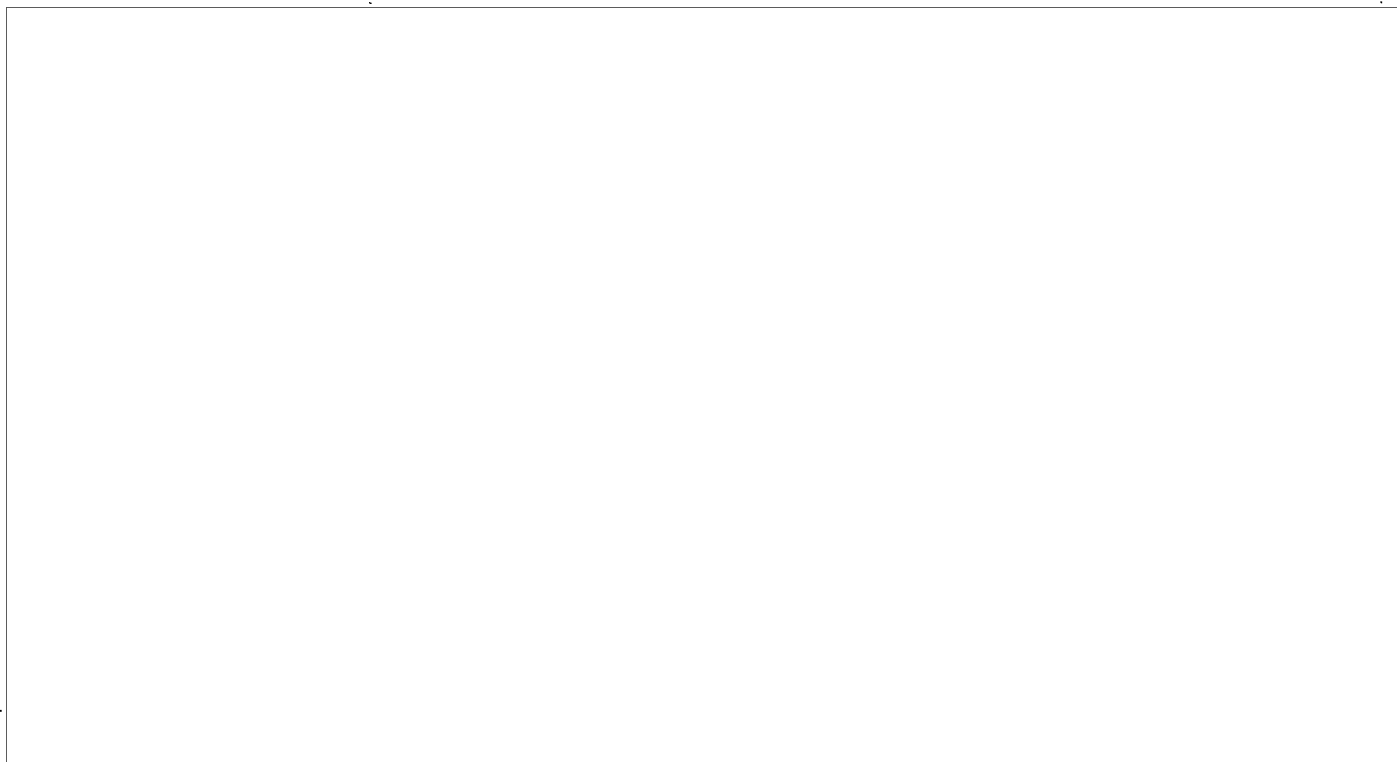
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PERFORMED AT THE GROUND STATION, SIGNALS OF INTEREST ARE FLAGGED FOR FURTHER DETAILED ANALYSIS BY NSA.

(SLIDE)



THE POPPY SATELLITES ARE PLACED IN A 500 MILE HIGH ORBIT, THIS GIVES THE BALL A CIRCULAR FIELD OF VIEW WITH A 3600 MILE DIAMETER OR OVER 9 MILLION SQUARE MILES OF COVERAGE. AT A GIVEN INSTANT?

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THE POPPY PROGRAM IS ONE IN WHICH NAVY SPACE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, AND THIS SUCCESS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY NRO AND NSA. THE LARGEST VALUE TO THE NAVY TO DATE COMES FROM THE EXPERTISE IN SATELLITE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD UP AND MAINTAIN AT NO DIRECT DOLLAR COST TO THE NAVY. THIS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE WE NOW FIND VALUABLE IN RESPONDING TO THE DIRECTIVE RECENTLY GIVEN US BY ADM MOORER TO "GET SOME EXPERIENCE IN SPACE" AND "GET THE NAVY INTO SPACE WHERE WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES". OCEAN SURVEILLANCE IS AN AREA WHERE NAVY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY AND WHERE THE SATELLITE CAN ASSIST MATERIALLY. THE PRESENT POPPY BIRDS ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF

DETECTING AND LOCATING RADIATING SHIPS

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*Handly view: Bueman
John Keyhole
Control Systems Jointly*

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AT SEA. WITH NRO PERMISSION WE HAVE TASKED OUR POPPY BIRDS, ON A NOT-TO-INTERFERE BASIS, TO COLLECT AGAINST SOVIET MEN-OF-WAR AT SEA. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF THESE ELINT SIGHTINGS TO PROVE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ELINT SATELLITES' ROLE IN OCEAN SURVEILLANCE. AS THE REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT AGAINST THE ABM THREAT DIMINISHES, HOPEFULLY MORE TIME WILL BE AVAILABLE TO INCREASE TASKING NRO SATELLITES FOR OCEAN SURVEILLANCE. EVENTUALLY, NAVY BUILT, CONTROLLED AND TASKED SATELLITES SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE GREAT SUPPORT TO THE OCEAN SURVEILLANCE NETWORK AND PROVIDE TACTICAL INFORMATION ON A REAL TIME BASIS TO THE COMMANDER AT SEA.

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Handwritten signatures and notes:
HARDY EVERMAN
S. L. ...
Control Systems Gently

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THE REQUIREMENT FOR COMPLETE OCEAN SURVEILLANCE, AND THE ROLE OF SATELLITES IN OCEAN SURVEILLANCE HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE NRO. WE MUST ESTABLISH WITH THE NRO THE NAVY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR OCEAN SURVEILLANCE AND THEN DEMONSTRATE THAT NAVY SATELLITES ARE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE REQUIRED RECONNAISSANCE. IF THE NAVY DOES NOT ESTABLISH THESE POINTS WE WILL EVENTUALLY BE PREEMPTED IN THIS AREA WHICH IS UNDISPUTEDLY NAVY TERRITORY. THERE WILL BE OCEAN SURVEILLANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY NRO, WE MUST INSURE THAT IT WILL BE A NAVY EFFORT EVENTHOUGH NRO CONTROLLED. WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS NOW. AS THE NRO PROGRAMS ARE NATIONALLY FUNDED THIS ASPECT OF OCEAN SURVEILLANCE SHOULD BE ATTAINABLE WITHOUT DRAIN ON NAVY FUNDS.

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OUR PRESENT AIM WITH PROGRAM C IS TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF THE POPPY SATELLITES, TO IMPROVE OUR FUTURE SATELLITES, TO RETAIN AND IMPROVE OUR SATELLITE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION CAPABILITIES, TO CONTINUE IDENTIFYING NAVY ROLES IN SPACE AND TO ENHANCE THE NAVY'S POSITION IN THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE PROGRAM THROUGH SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NRO AND THE APPROPRIATE USIB COMMITTEES.

AS WITH ANY PROGRAM WE HAVE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER NONE OF THESE ARE INSURMOUNTABLE.

AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, ^{IF} ~~WHEN~~ SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE ^{FROM SECRETARY OF} ~~FROM THE CNO AND VCNO LEVELS~~ IS REQUIRED WE WILL ^{BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION} ~~BRING THESE TO YOUR ATTENTION~~. ~~THIS IS NOT FROM~~

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ADM MOORER IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN POPPY, TO THE DEGREE THAT HE HAS ASKED FOR A MONTHLY BRIEFING MEMO ON THE POPPY PROGRAM, ^{AND} A QUARTERLY BRIEFING ON POPPY PROGRESS, ~~AND A VISIT TO NRL TO SEE THE NEW POPPY SATELLITES DURING CONSTRUCTION.~~

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING ONE OF THE SATELLITES IN CONSTRUCTION WE WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ARRANGE THE VISIT.

Handwritten signature: Robert Keyhole
 Control Systems Jontly

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