



NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

14675 Lee Road
Chantilly, VA 20151-1715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (703) 808-5050

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NRO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) celebrated 50 years of national service with a cake-cutting ceremony on September 8, 2011. The event was part of an 18-month commemoration, which will include the formal unveiling of the Gambit and Hexagon legacy reconnaissance systems during a gala celebration the evening of September 17, at the Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar Hazy Center, Chantilly, VA.

“Based on the foundation that has been set decades ago, we have a record of accomplishments that I think is second to none,” said Mr. Bruce Carlson, Director of the NRO.

Highlighting today’s occasion was a three-foot wide raspberry and vanilla cake designed by Alli Taylor, of the NRO Systems Engineering Directorate. The workforce cast 1,170 votes for five different designs in a contest to choose the official cake; Taylor’s design won by 19 votes. “The bakery did an impressive job bringing my concept into reality. It was an honor to be a part of this historic event and celebrate among legends of the NRO,” said Taylor. Festivities also included NRO alumni speeches, historical exhibits, and the unveiling of a 50th Anniversary commemorative poster by graphic artist Charles (Chuck) Glover II.

The NRO is a joint Department of Defense-Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America’s signals, imagery, and communications intelligence satellites to meet the needs of our nation.



50 YEARS OF VIGILANCE FROM ABOVE



NRO Director Bruce Carlson and cake design winner, Alli Taylor, cutting the official NRO birthday cake



NRO 50th Anniversary cake and commemorative poster