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Declassified Gambit-Hexagon Satellites Displayed at the National Air Force Museum

National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), military, industry officials, and alumni, attended a ceremony today placing the recently declassified NRO KH-7 Gambit 1, KH-8 Gambit 3, and KH-9 Hexagon reconnaissance satellites on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH.

These satellites operated from 1963 to 1984 and were among the most important U.S. photoreconnaissance systems, producing more than 91,000 linear feet of film combined. This imagery played a critical role in maintaining U.S. national security during the Cold War. The NRO publically unveiled these satellites last year during its 50th Anniversary celebration.

“Over the last 50 years, from reconnaissance planes to reconnaissance satellites, the NRO’s systems have been and continue to be the foundation for global situational awareness in protecting our nation,” said NRO Director Bruce Carlson. “The systems honored today were critical for monitoring key targets in the USSR and around the globe and provided much needed cartographic information to the Department of Defense to produce accurate, large-scale maps. Gambit and Hexagon were America’s eyes in space and the most sophisticated satellites of their time.”

Gambit-Hexagon information, including images and photos released for today’s ceremony, is available at www.nro.gov.

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

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