



NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRO HONORS 2012 PIONEER AND FOUNDER

Ms. Betty Sapp, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), selected Dr. Robert P. O'Donnell as a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance for 2012, and honored Mr. Jimmie D. Hill as an NRO Founder. Ms. Sapp inducted this year's Pioneer honoree into Pioneer Hall in a ceremony on February 22, 2013, at NRO headquarters in Chantilly, Va. The Honorable James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, was this year's featured speaker.

The NRO honors as Pioneers those individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. Dr. O'Donnell pioneered the development of unique, complex precision structures and mechanisms that enabled dramatic breakthroughs in the ability to collect critically important signals and imagery intelligence from space. Dr. O'Donnell developed analysis and simulation techniques which made possible the precision pointing and flexible structure deployment and control of a new generation of collection satellites. His career in national reconnaissance spans from 1972 to the present.

Dr. O'Donnell performed critical work toward establishing the NRO's reputation for engineering excellence, responsiveness, and technical innovation. With the addition of Dr. O'Donnell, the NRO will have selected a total of 86 pioneers over the past 12 years.

Designation as a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance is the highest honor in the field. Commemorative plaques for each Pioneer are on permanent display in Pioneer Hall at NRO headquarters.

Director Sapp recognized Mr. Hill for laying the foundation for the 21st century NRO. His dynamic leadership fostered an innovative management and operational environment that allowed the NRO to successfully develop, execute, and sustain essential national reconnaissance programs. Mr. Hill's direction and strong advocacy ensured the NRO successfully maintained its critical strategic importance, but also opened a new era of tactical relevance and adapted the NRO to its new, post-Cold War missions—transitioning the organization from a geographically-dispersed, strategic reconnaissance enterprise to a unified, consolidated intelligence agency.

Mr. Hill's career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1965-1996.

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