



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: (703) 808-5050

Release # 03-14
April 8, 2014

NRO Inducts the 2013 Class of Pioneers

Ms. Betty Sapp, the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), inducted two new Pioneers of National Reconnaissance into NRO's Pioneer Hall on Friday, 21 March 2014. The 2013 Pioneers are Mr. William G. Montgomery and Dr. Donald N. Simkins, two individuals who made innovative contributions that changed the discipline and practice of national reconnaissance. Mr. Montgomery pioneered precision control and pointing accuracies for imagery intelligence collection, and Dr. Simkins pioneered the development of processing techniques that allowed the dramatic advancement of geolocation algorithms.

Ms. Stephanie O'Sullivan the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence (PDDNI), was the guest speaker at the ceremony and co-presented the pioneers with a small replica of the Pioneer medallion and citation that are on display in NRO's Pioneer Hall. Ms. O'Sullivan observed how Mr. Montgomery's innovations have been critical both in designing and coordinating the operation of imaging reconnaissance systems, and how critical Dr. Simkins' pioneering innovations have been for almost every space-based geolocation system in operation.

As Pioneers of National Reconnaissance, Mr. Montgomery and Dr. Simkins are classic examples of leading engineering minds in the intelligence community. Both individuals faced and overcame technical challenges with their pioneering innovations that led to superior intelligence collection from space. Building upon their foundation, today's NRO strives to provide a global perspective when users need the information. Over the past fourteen years, the NRO has recognized 90 pioneers. Designation as a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance is the highest honor in the field.

-NRO-

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