NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SIXTY YEARS ABOVE AND BEYOND

ABOVE AND BEYOND

1961–2021

Version 9/29/2021

ABOVE AND BEYOND

"See it all, see it well, see it now."

Edwin Land
Founder, National Reconnaissance Office

MADE AND MODELED BY HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 6, 1961

DoD and CIA established the National Reconnaissance Office to oversee the National Reconnaissance Program.

MAY 26, 1972

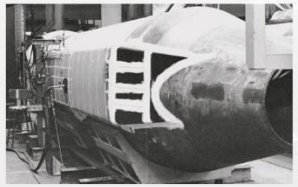
Information gathered from Corona's last mission permitted the U.S. to conclude the initial signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1992

The Department of Defense, in an official release, publically acknowledged the existence of the NRO.

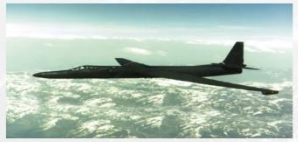
SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

NRO celebrated its 50th anniversary with the public declassification and unveiling of its Gambit and Hexagon film return systems.



DECEMBER 21, 1964

NRO's experimental synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging satellite, Quill, became the world's first satellite-borne SAR.



OCTOBER 1, 1974

NRO abolished Program D, transferring responsibility for U-2, A-12, and SR-71 to the U.S. Air Force.

OCTOBER 15, 2008

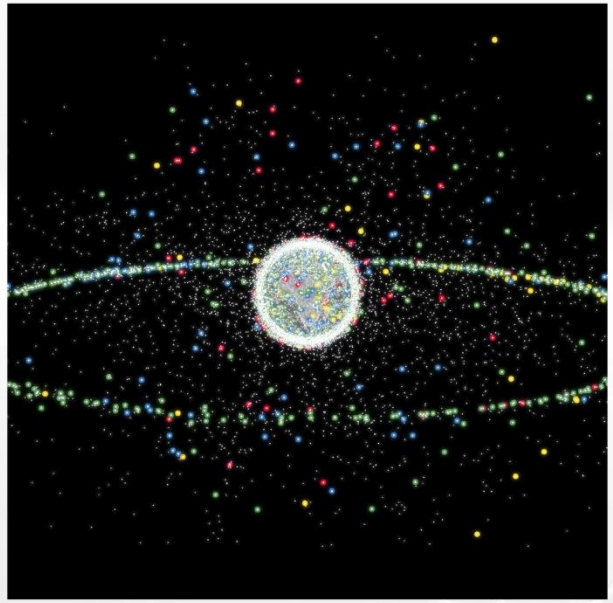
NRO declassified the fact of domestic NRO Mission Ground Stations and NRO presence at specific overseas locations.

2021

The NRO plans declassification of additional program records as part of its year-long 60th Anniversary celebration.

NRO's pioneering heritage inspires the inventiveness that propels us toward the future

THE SPACE ENVIRONMENT



CONGESTED

CONTESTED

COMPETITIVE

NRO operates in an increasingly crowded and threatened domain

THE WORLD'S LEADER IN UNIQUE INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS

DEVELOP

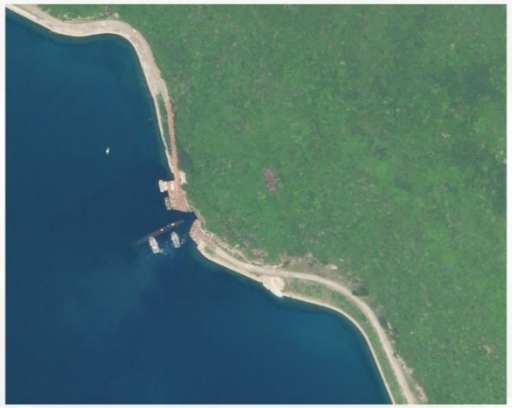
ACQUIRE

LAUNCH

OPERATE

NRO has more operational systems on orbit than any other space-based, intelligence-collection organization

GLOBAL REACH AND PERSISTENCE MEANS NOWHERE TO HIDE

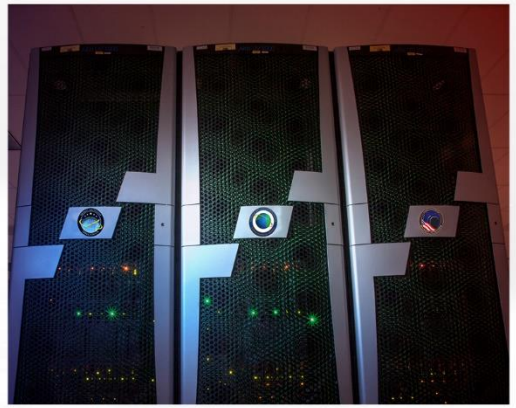


GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE

Provides precise geographic details of objects in denied areas

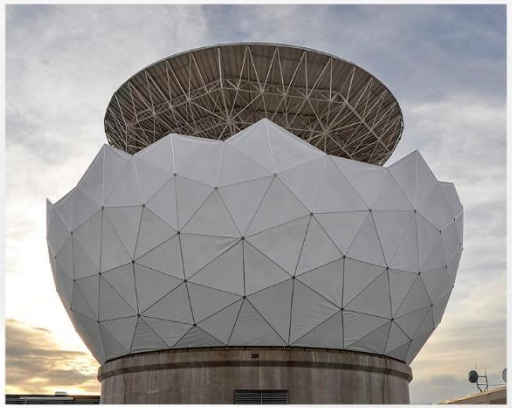
SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE

Reveals adversary capabilities and intentions



COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Manages mission critical network and data transport operations



GROUND SYSTEMS

Processes space-based sensor data for mission partner needs

NRO data, tools, and services provide the foundation for U.S. intelligence

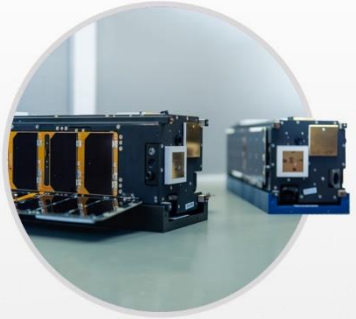
WE MAKE INTELLIGENCE POSSIBLE

OUR ADVANCED CAPABILITIES

SPACE SYSTEM SURVIVABILITY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / MACHINE LEARNING

IMAGERY

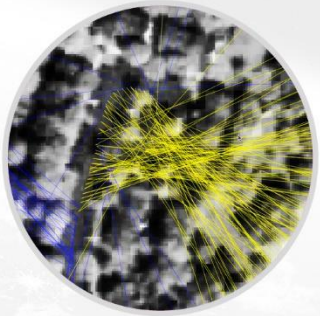


RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

SPACE SYSTEMS OPERATIONS

SIGNAL INTERCEPTION

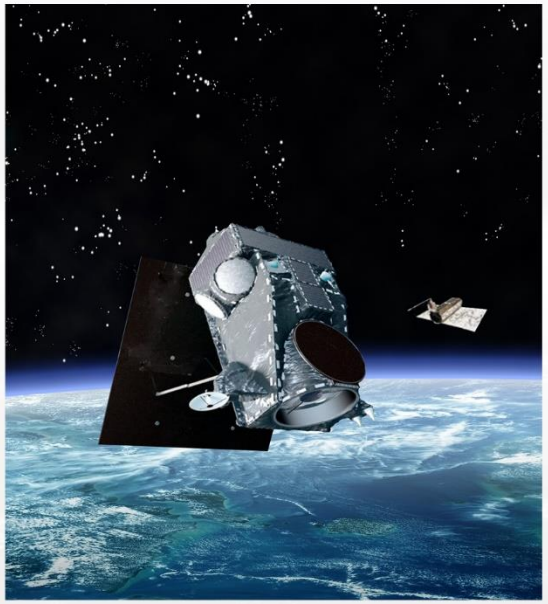
DATA TRANSPORT



GEOLOCATION

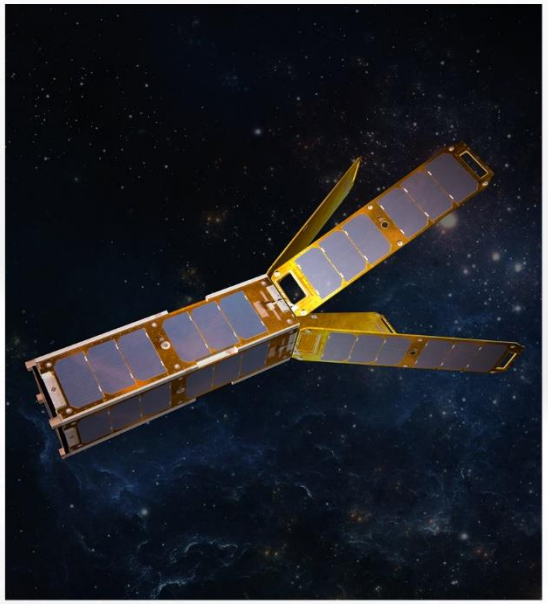
NRO is rapidly evolving our architecture, technology, and operations to stay ahead of threats

DRIVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

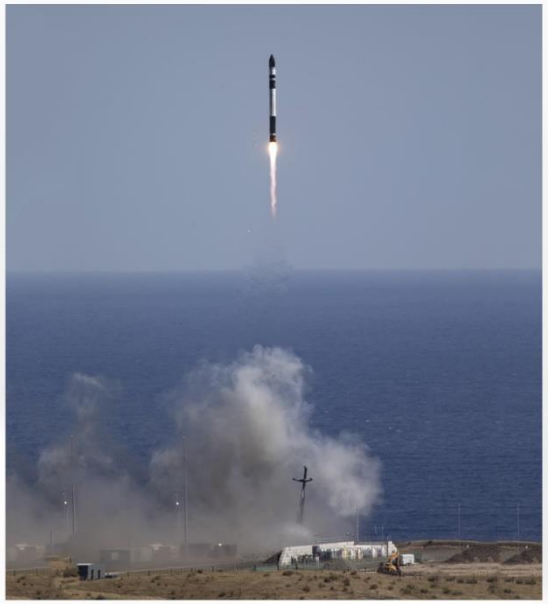


HYBRID CONSTELLATION

FUTURE GROUND ARCHITECTURE



RAPID TECH INFUSION



RISK-TOLERANT INVESTMENTS

Greater Resilience | *Greater Speed* | *Greater Capability* | *Greater Capacity*

A UNITED NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE ENTERPRISE

OUR CUSTOMERS

POLICYMAKERS

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

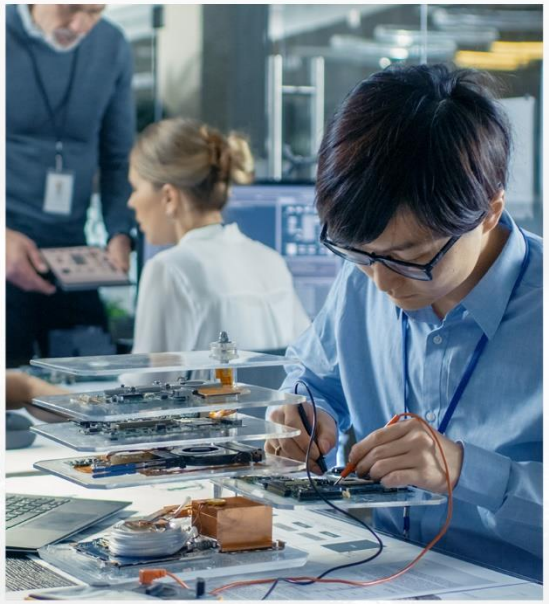
INTERNATIONAL COALITION & ALLIES

FEDERAL CIVILIAN AGENCIES

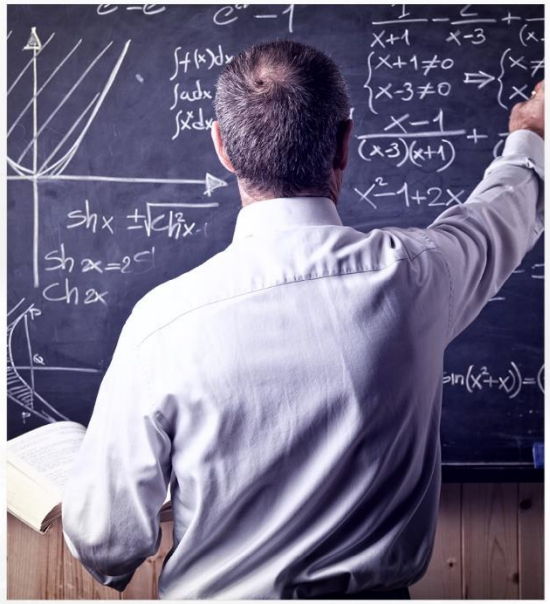
NRO capabilities provide our customers the intelligence needed to keep our nation safe

OUR PARTNERS

INTERAGENCY



COMMERCIAL



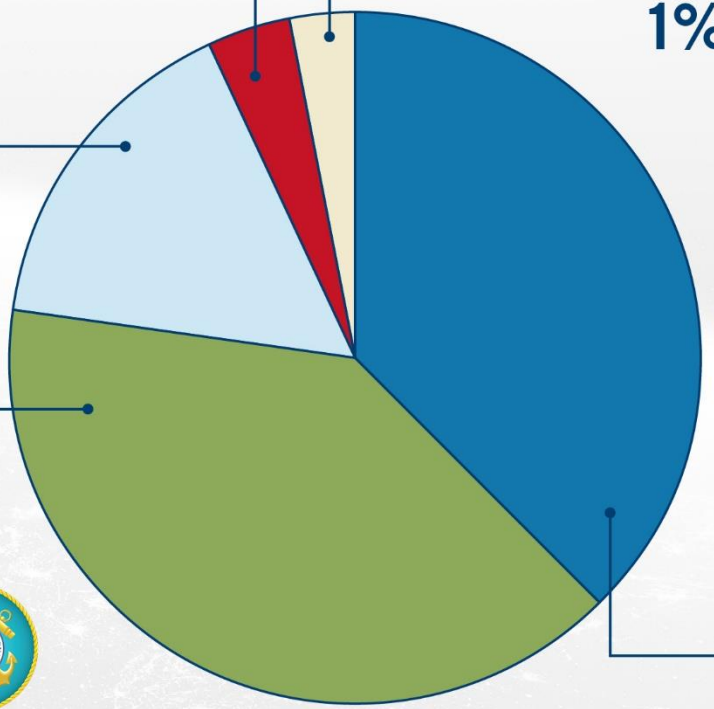
ACADEMIA

ALLIES

Collaborative | Efficient | Creative | Disruptive

POWERED BY PEOPLE, FUELED BY INGENUITY

OUR WORKFORCE



Our people are our greatest asset: skilled, diverse, mission-driven

OUR LOCATIONS

NRO Headquarters
Chantilly, Virginia

Aerospace Data Facility – East
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Aerospace Data Facility – Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Aerospace Data Facility – Southwest
Las Cruces, New Mexico

NRO's footprint extends across, above, and beyond

ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Observe it all, observe it well, observe it now, *and innovate faster*."

Dr. Chris J. Scolese
Director, National Reconnaissance Office

ABOVE AND BEYOND

1961–2021

FIND US ON

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