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# **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN for NRO LAUNCH DECLASSIFICATION**

**March 1, 1997**



**WARNING NOTICE:** The procedures set forth in this plan will not be divulged or implemented until all personnel have been officially notified and fully briefed on their responsibilities.

**WARNING:** OTHER THAN APPENDIX B, THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE USED AS A SOURCE FOR DERIVATIVE CLASSIFICATION.

Classified By: K.R. Hall, DDNRO  
Classified Reason: 1.5(c)  
Declassify On: X1  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As Deputy Director (DDNRO), I have approved a concept to announce National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) launches and to declassify specific functional and administrative information relative to launch of NRO satellites. The first stage of this declassification will be an acknowledgment that the scheduled December 1996 Vandenberg AFB (VAFB) Titan IV launch carries an NRO satellite. Functional and administrative launch management information will be declassified on 1 March 1997.

This plan describes the process for acknowledging NRO sponsorship of satellites being integrated and launched and for declassifying or decompartmenting most Office of Space Launch (OSL) and Operating Division 4 (OD-4) functions - permitting most government and contractor personnel to acknowledge an affiliation with NRO launch in a less restrictive environment. It also declassifies or decompartmentes launch communication support and OSL facilities.

There will be no changes in classification policy relative to technical data and intelligence system operations. BYE protection of current and future mission capabilities, sensitive technologies, and sensitive operations locations is maintained. And, even though certain activities such as launch and early on-orbit operations, command and control, and health and status will be evident, the NRO will observe a strict 'No Comment' policy relative to mission operations.

Acknowledging NRO launch and further declassification of the NRO OSL is a calculated risk management decision based on analysis of present and future launch operational profiles, open-source information availability, NRO mission objectives and critical capabilities, and the on-going move towards more openness in government.

A transition period between the December launch acknowledgment and full launch declassification will allow for the completion of appropriate education and training, both NRO internal and external, to achieve effective implementation. The fact that the scheduled December 1996 VAFB Titan IV launch carries an NRO satellite will be declassified concurrent with the launch, currently scheduled for 18 December. The effective date for declassification of specified functional and administrative information is 1 March 1997.

APPROVED BY:

Keith R. Hall  
Deputy Director

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## PART I - BASELINE

1. **Objective.** The intent of this initiative is to announce most present and future NRO launches and to declassify specific functional and administrative information relative to NRO launch activities.

2. **Scope.** This declassification affects all NRO offices, directorates, and contractors involved in and supporting integration and launch of NRO satellites. OSL and OD-4 sites and personnel identified in this plan will be declassified or decompartmented, and will follow implementation procedures. Other NRO Directorates and offices will provide support and services needed to ensure an efficient implementation. Non-NRO agencies and personnel that support the NRO launch process (e.g. CIA, CMO, DOC, DOS, DOT, JCS, SAF, NASA, NIMA, NSA, AFSPACE, SMC, and DIA) will be informed of the action and involved in implementation as necessary.

3. **Criteria.**

- a. The fact of certain NRO launches will be officially released.
- b. The OSL must be able to openly function as the NRO launch agent.
- c. The Onizuka (OAS) sited NRO assets will not be identified as NRO. OD-4 will openly support NRO launches but will not be openly identified as part of the NRO. OD-4 may be acknowledged as an NRO element at the collateral SECRET level.
- d. The Information Technology Group (ITG) affiliation with the NRO will remain protected; however, support to NRO launch may be acknowledged.
- e. Satellite mission, technical data, intelligence system operations data, and past launch activities will remain classified and compartmented.
- f. The ability to conceal appropriate technology, organizations, and operations, and to preserve cover arrangements consistent with sources and methods techniques will be maintained.
- g. OPSEC or similar measures will be taken to minimize publicity and/or the operational profile of NRO launch-related facilities, personnel, operations, and activities.
- h. NRO launch declassification must be based on a plausible, easily understood, and executable concept.

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## Part II - APPROACH

### 1. General.

a. NRO launch declassification will occur in two stages.

1) Concurrent with the December 1996 VAFB Titan IV launch, Stage I will declassify and release the fact that the launch carries an NRO satellite. All other launch related information including organizations, personnel, and locations remains classified. The satellite's intelligence mission, technical data, operational intelligence data, tasking, data collection, downlinks, operational data, data processing, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] remain classified and compartmented, as appropriate.

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2) Stage II will declassify the fact that Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS) and Onizuka (OAS), as well as VAFB, support NRO integration and launch. Certain details relating to the OSL, including personnel, facilities, and contracts at Los Angeles AFB (LAAFB), VAFB, and CCAS will also be declassified. Certain details relating to OD-4, including personnel, facilities, and contracts at OAS will be decompartmented.

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b. A transition period between Stage I and Stage II will allow for the completion of appropriate education and training, both NRO internal and external, to achieve effective implementation.

### 2. Classification Concept.

a. The classification tables in Appendix B (on page 24) provide interim guidance until appropriate classification guidance is implemented. In the event of a conflict, this plan takes precedence over the currently approved NRO Security Classification Guide (SCG), Program SCGs, and Air Force Program (AFP) SCGs. Many classification policy decisions are TBD, however, Appendix B should provide a framework that is adequate to address most situations and aid in identifying those areas where additional guidance is needed.

b. Integration and operations information that is currently classified due to 'content' and not because of association will remain classified unless specifically identified for change in the classification table in Appendix B.

c. Integration and operations information that is ONLY classified because of NRO, SAF/SP, or other organizational association (i.e. guidance states 'unclassified when not associated with') will be evaluated and decompartmented/declassified with the objective of ensuring the NRO - SAF/SP association is protected.

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### 3. Organization.

a. Effective 1 March 1997, the OSL Deputy Director (DD/OSL) position will be declassified and added to the released NRO organization chart.

b. Effective 1 March 1997, the entire OSL structure will be declassified but not added to the released NRO organization chart. Though not released this information is permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence.

1) SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO launch related organization, structure, functions, responsibilities, contracts, obligations, budgets, etc. will transition to the NRO OSL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CLX or IMO functions, contracts, etc. that are unclassified will remain so. Functions, contracts, etc. that are classified will remain so. Contracts will be evaluated for possible re-classification upon re-issue or modification.

2) OD-4 organization, structure, functions, responsibilities, etc. will be identified as NRO at a Secret collateral classification level. OD-4 support for NRO launch and on-orbit command and control functions will be declassified. This information will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but is permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence.

3) ITG organization, structure, functions, responsibilities, etc. providing communications support to the OSL and OD-4 will remain unchanged. ITG Detachments at each location will not be declassified but may acknowledge support of NRO launch and/or mission. This information will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but is permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence.

c. Functions and offices that co-use or are sited with OSL or OD-4 units will be evaluated for classification on a case-by-case basis, with decisions being based on parent organization directions and implementation processes.

### 4. Personnel.

a. Effective 1 March 1997, NRO government personnel assigned to LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB, except those assigned to specifically exempt elements (see Part III paragraph 2.d., page 11), may acknowledge their NRO affiliation for official purposes. NRO government personnel assigned to OD-4 at OAS may acknowledge their NRO affiliation at a SECRET Collateral level.

b. Effective 1 March 1997, support contractors may acknowledge their affiliation and NRO support in a manner/degree consistent with corpo-

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rate and NRO contract relationship policy, their contracting instrument and as it appears on unclassified OSL or OD-4 organization charts and mission statements.

c. The names of personnel declassified under this action will not be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but are permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence. NO personnel declassified under this action (other than the DD/OSL) will be officially identified as occupying a specific NRO organizational position.

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e. Individuals who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 are not included in this declassification effort.

5. **Facilities.** Effective 1 March 1997, the association of the NRO with specified NRO managed or occupied facilities at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB will be declassified. The association of the NRO with specified NRO managed or occupied facilities at OAS will be decompartmented to Secret collateral. This information will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but is permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence.

**6. Operating Sites/Locations.**

a. Effective 1 March 1997, the fact that the NRO has personnel, facilities, and/or assets stationed at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB will be declassified. Effective 1 March 1997, the fact that the NRO has personnel, facilities, and/or assets stationed at OAS will be decompartmented to Secret collateral. Although NOT released at the 1 March 1997 effective date declassified information is permitted to become known through daily operations and correspondence.

b. Effective 1 March 1997, the fact that NRO assets will be located at Falcon AFS, CO will be decompartmented.

c. All other MGS and sensitive sites/operations locations remain compartmented.

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### PART III - IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

#### 1. Classification Policy.

a. The only information declassified concurrent with the scheduled December 1996 Vandenberg AFB Titan IV launch is the fact that the launch carries an NRO satellite. Note: This information was declassified on 18 Dec 96 by the Deputy Director's Note 30 and in conjunction with the NRO/PA (sic) generated press package. See Appendix F (on page 47)

b. Specified functional and administrative information becomes collateral SECRET effective with approval of this plan. Affected information is identified in the classification table in Appendix B (on page 24). Other than specific personnel responsible for briefing or training non-NRO personnel, this information will continue to be treated and handled as SECRET BYE until it becomes unclassified or decompartmented concurrent with full implementation on 1 March 1997.

c. Personnel who interface with launch support organizations may become aware of or exposed to speculations related to NRO functions and operations as a result of the December 1996 Vandenberg AFB Titan IV launch acknowledgment. Individuals should not comment nor become involved in confirming nor denying any speculations. However, if confronted prior to the 1 March 1997 effective date, individuals may acknowledge their NRO affiliation under guidelines in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.

#### 2. Organization.

##### a. Declassification Scope.

1) Effective 1 March 1997, the unclassified NRO organization chart is revised to acknowledge the DD/OSL position and incumbent.

2) Effective 1 March 1997, the entire OSL structure will be declassified but not added to the released NRO organization chart. The personnel, organizations, missions, and functions of elements declassified under this action will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but may be acknowledged, as necessary, in the normal course of business. This means these elements will become known as NRO assets through daily operations, activities, relationships, and correspondence. See Appendix C (on page 33) and Appendix D (on page 38) for the unclassified organization charts and mission and function statements. "Figure E.1. Administrative Changes" on page 42, graphically summarizes these changes.

3) Effective 1 March 1997, the OD-4 [redacted] organization will be decompartmented to the Secret collateral level. See Appendix C (on page 33) and Appendix D (on page 38) for the unclassified organization charts and mission and function statements. "Figure E.1. Administrative Changes" on page 42, graphically summarizes these changes.

4) Effective 1 March 1997, the ITG Detachments located at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, and OAS may acknowledge that they support the NRO and the

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NRO launch process. The fact that the Detachments occupy space in NRO managed facilities may be acknowledged but should not be highlighted. ITG personnel are reminded that the AF Comm Element cover story remains in place and that they are AF Comm personnel assigned to support the NRO - only one of ITG's many customers.

5) Unclassified organization structure, with personnel names, is For Official Use Only (FOUO) and may be made available upon request to those who officially interact with the NRO. See Appendix C and Appendix D for the unclassified organization charts and mission and function statements.

6) The NRO Office of Corporate Communications staff will use the material in Appendix C, WITHOUT personnel names, and Appendix D to respond to inquiries from the public.

b. **Officially Released Elements.** Effective 1 March 1997, the DD/OSL office will be included on the NRO organizational chart and may function, operate, and correspond as an NRO asset.

c. **Declassified Elements.**

1) **General.** Organizational elements and personnel currently assigned to SAF/SP elements declassified under this action will transition to SAF/SL, SAF/SO, SAF/ST, or [ ] Unless noted below, existing operating location designations (i.e. OL QPS, OL VNBG) will continue, though may be restructured. These offices are NOT included on the NRO organizational chart and will continue to function, operate, and correspond as identified. Correspondence will normally be on OSAF letterhead. Although SAF/SL is the office of assignment for USAF personnel, it is not and will not be used as the operational office designator. SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO will functionally cease operations although they will not formally 'stand-down'. Memoranda of Agreement will be reaccomplished as SAF/SL units vice SAF/SP units.

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2) **Unclassified.** Effective 1 March 1997, the existence of and relationship of the NRO with the following elements and operational activities become unclassified.

a) LAAFB

(1) Launch Program Office (LPO) (formerly SMC/CLX or SMC/IMO)

Note: Fact that ITG support the NRO and the NRO launch process may be acknowledged; however, ITG's NRO affiliation remains compartmented.

b) CCAS

(1) OL QPS

Note: Fact that ITG provides communications support to the NRO launch process may be acknowledged; however, ITG's NRO affiliation remains compartmented.

c) VAFB

(1) OL VNBG

Note: Fact that ITG provides communications support to the

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NRO launch process may be acknowledged; however, ITG's NRO affiliation remains compartmented.

d) OAS - none

Note: Fact that OD-4 and ITG support the NRO and the NRO launch process may be acknowledged; however, the OD and ITG NRO affiliation remains compartmented.

3) **Non-NRO.** Association of the NRO with the following offices that are not part of the NRO but are located at or use NRO sponsored facilities at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, or OAS become unclassified. Depending upon parent organization direction, personnel assigned to these offices may acknowledge the fact their office is located in the same building as an NRO office.

a) LAAFB

(1) National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA, formerly DDPO)

(2) Space Applications Program Office (SAPO)

(3) MILSATCOM Joint Program Office

b) CCAS- none

c) VAFB- none

d) OAS- none

**d. Classified Elements.**

1) **Collateral.** Personnel, organizations, missions, and functions of the following NRO elements located at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, and OAS remain classified but are decompartmented to SECRET collateral. Personnel currently assigned to SAF/SP in these elements will transition to SAF/SL, SAF/SO, SAF/ST, [REDACTED]

All government personnel/positions will be appropriately annotated in MS&O/HRMG records. See classification guidance in Appendix B (on page 24).

a) LAAFB - none

b) CCAS - none

c) VAFB - none

d) OAS

(1) OD-4

(2) OD-4 Comm Support

2) **Compartmented.** Personnel, organizations, missions, and functions of the following NRO organizational elements located at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, and OAS remain classified and compartmented. Personnel currently assigned to SAF/SP in these elements [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All government personnel/positions retaining classification will be appropriately annotated in MS&O/HRMG records. Managers, in conjunction with HRMG, are responsible for informing their incumbents and/or incoming personnel of the classified/unclassified position status. The process for identifying positions will be completed by the 1 March 1997 effective date. See classification

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guidance in Appendix B (on page 24).

a) LAAFB

- (1) Document Control functions
- (2) ITG Detachment 9 (Det 9)
- (3) Los Angeles Operations Security Support Office (LAOSSO)
- (4) MS&O Courier functions
- (5) OSA
- (6) West Coast Security Center (WSC)

b) CCAS

- (1) ITG Detachment 5 (Det 5)

c) VAFB

- (1) ITG Detachment 1 (Det 1)
- (2) Mobile Communications (MCOM)

d) OAS

- (1) ITG Detachment 7 (Det 7)

Note: [REDACTED]

3) **Non-NRO.** Association of the NRO with the following offices that are not part of the NRO but are located at or use NRO sponsored facilities at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, or OAS remains classified and/or compartmented. See parent organization for direction on degree of association acknowledgment.

a) LAAFB- none

b) CCAS

c) VAFB- none

d) OAS- none

### 3. Personnel.

#### a. Government.

1) **Assigned Element.** All SAF/SP personnel and elements will be transferred to other OSAF elements. OSL personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB and that are declassified under this action will administratively transfer to SAF/SL. Personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB that remain classified and non-OSL personnel will administratively transfer to [REDACTED] or SAF/ST with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OSL SAF/SP personnel assigned to OD-4/ DL will administratively transfer to SAF/SL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All other SAF/SP personnel assigned to OAS OD-4 will administratively transfer to SAF/SO [REDACTED]  
Personnel at SAF/SP MGS locations, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] or  
SAF/SO [REDACTED] "Figure E.1. Administra-

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tive Changes" on page 42, graphically summarizes these changes. HRMG will establish office assignment codes and general procedures to properly annotate all career briefs, evaluations, unit manning documents, etc., in order to accurately reflect NRO affiliation.

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## 2) NRO Affiliation.

a) **Official Contacts.** In general, NRO government personnel at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB, except for those assigned to elements that remain classified, may acknowledge that they are assigned to/affiliated with the NRO. NRO government personnel at OAS may acknowledge that they support the NRO in an FOUO environment and may state they are assigned to the NRO in a SECRET collateral environment. ITG personnel may state that they are part of an AF Comm element assigned to support the NRO. Personnel may also state they support the NRO in a manner/degree as it appears on the unclassified organization charts and to the extent described in unclassified mission statements. Additionally, personnel may acknowledge the generic nature of their work, e.g., analyst, integrator, engineer, secretary, security officer, etc. Such disclosures shall not confirm the existence of an NRO classified and/or compartmented project, information, technology, application, or operations facility. See Appendix C and Appendix D for the unclassified organization, mission, and function statements. Also see Appendix H (on page 63) for Questions and Answers with additional guidance on how personnel may identify themselves in various situations.

b) **Unofficial Contacts.** Personnel whose affiliation with the NRO has been declassified may choose to disclose their affiliation to family, close friends, and neighbors based on a personal need-to-know judgment. This acknowledgment must not inadvertently reveal classified or compartmented information or relationships with other personnel whose NRO affiliation has not been declassified. Likewise, personnel should not acknowledge their NRO affiliation gratuitously in response to casual social or other inquiries, and are urged not to make indiscriminate admissions of NRO affiliation. The first response to any social inquiry about a person's place of employment should be the employing organization, i.e. [redacted] NRO affiliation will not be acknowledged during personal travel and other similar outside activities. Personnel must also be aware that, by their own admission of NRO affiliation, TDY travel to domestic or foreign

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locations could reveal those locations to friends and family as NRO. Travel to covert destinations must be protected appropriately. See Appendix H for Questions and Answers with additional guidance on how personnel may identify themselves in various situations.

c) **NRO Logo-ed Items.** Personnel assigned to elements that remain classified are NOT authorized to publicly wear or display NRO logo-ed items (e.g. T-shirts, mugs, notebooks). Personnel assigned to elements that become unclassified on 1 March 1997 may wear or display NRO logo-ed items. Operating location designations (i.e. LPO, OL QPS, OL VNBG, OD-4) will be used as organization identifiers in intramural-like activities.

3) **Office of Assignment.** Organizational positions will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but may be used in the normal course of business. This means personnel assigned to unclassified elements will become known as NRO assets through daily operations, activities, relationships, and correspondence. See Appendix H (on page 63) - Question and Answer Supplement for additional guidance on how personnel may identify themselves in various situations.

5) **Performance Reports/Assignment History.** Military and civilian personnel whose support to the NRO has been declassified may have their NRO support reflected within their unclassified assignment histories and their performance evaluations after the effective date of 1 March 1997. Care must be taken to ensure that descriptions do not reveal information about classified NRO locations, information, technology, capabilities, or applications. Affiliation and roles may be acknowledged consistent with unclassified functional element mission statements. Individuals who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 are NOT included in this declassification effort.

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6) **Resumes.** Starting 1 March 1997, affiliation with the NRO may be stated on resumes for those government personnel whose support has been declassified as long as classified information is not revealed. Assignment histories and resume entries covering periods that start before the effective date of 1 March 1997 will NOT show NRO affiliation and support even if the individuals' functions have not changed and were in support of launch activities. Care must be taken to ensure that skill and function descriptions do not reveal information about classified NRO locations, information, technologies, capabilities, or applica-

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tions. Individuals who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 may NOT identify NRO affiliation on assignment histories and resume entries.

**b. Contractors.**

1) **NRO Affiliation.** Pending review and approval, and consistent with NRO and corporate policies, contractor personnel employed on existing unclassified SMC/CLX or SMC/IMO contracts may acknowledge their affiliation with the NRO or support to the NRO, to include being known as an "NRO launch support contractor", after the effective date of 1 March 1997. Appendix G (on page 60) lists contracts that will allow contractors to acknowledge an NRO affiliation. The NRO will NOT announce any declassified contractor affiliations, but may acknowledge the affiliation once the company in question has announced it. Contractor personnel on instruments that are NOT declassified will contact their Contracting Officer prior to acknowledging their NRO association. Consistent with NRO and corporate policies, contractor personnel employed on existing unclassified OD-4 contracts may acknowledge their NRO affiliation at the collateral SECRET level. Acknowledgment will be in a manner/degree consistent with the contracting instrument and as it appears on unclassified NRO organization charts and mission statements. Additionally, contractor personnel may acknowledge the generic nature of their NRO related work, e.g., analyst, integration, engineer, secretary, security officer, etc. Care must be taken to ensure disclosures do not reveal classified NRO locations, information, technologies, capabilities, or applications. Contractors who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 are NOT included in this declassification effort.

2) **Performance Reports/Assignment History.** Contractor assignment histories and performance evaluations may NOT show NRO affiliation.

3) **Resumes.** Contractors are NOT permitted to identify NRO affiliation or support on resumes, cover letters, or job applications. As long as classified information is not revealed, contractor personnel may make statements concerning the generic nature of their NRO related work, e.g., analyst, integration, engineer, secretary, courier, security officer, etc. in a manner/degree consistent with their contracting instrument and as it appears on unclassified organization chart and mission statements.

4) **Correspondence.** SETA or CAAS contractors located in government facilities may utilize the same correspondence (unclassified official mail) and courier (classified documents) addresses as their government sponsor.

**c. Protocol and Senior Management Visits.** The site commander will determine protocol procedures on a case-by-case basis for senior NRO or contractor management visits to LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, or OAS. The host base or location may acknowledge the VIP presence to the extent the operating location or site is acknowledged and to the extent the individual's relationship with the NRO is acknowledged.

**d. Former Personnel.** Only those government and contractor personnel

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who are assigned to the positions supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 may be declassified. Individuals whose organization of record (SAF/SP, SAF/SS, SAF/ST) does NOT change as part of declassification, or who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997, are not included in this declassification effort. Exceptions will be managed through the DNRO on a case-by-case basis.

#### 4. Facilities.

a. **Westfields.** The fact that the OSL HQ is in Westfields is unclassified and acknowledged.

b. **LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB.**

1) Effective 1 March 1997, most NRO managed or occupied facilities at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB will be declassified. The following NRO sponsored Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) remain classified. Facilities are listed as part of the classification tables in Appendix B (on page 24). See that appendix for classification guidance on facility relationships.

a) LAAFB - none

b) CCAS

(1) McDonnell Douglas Astronautics SCIF (Titusville, FL)

c) VAFB

(1) LM Federal Systems SCIF (Santa Maria, CA)

(2) NRL Facility, Bldg 660.

2) Location of a declassified facility is For Official Use Only and will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but may be identified in the normal course of business. This means NRO used facilities will become known as NRO assets through daily operations, activities, relationships, and correspondence.

3) Personnel working in facilities at the time of declassification must exercise good judgment in acknowledging their actual work location in an unclassified setting. Disclosure of the actual location of OSL facilities should be judged on a need-to-know basis.

c. **OAS.** Effective 1 March 1997, OAS NRO managed or occupied facilities will be decompartmented but remain SECRET collateral when identified as NRO.

#### 5. Administrative Arrangements.

a. **Message Traffic.** The preferred routing for message traffic continues to be via Special Operations Communications (SOCOMM); the NRO Special Security Office (SSO); and the NRO government and contractor wide-area networks (GWAN & CWAN). Administrative traffic from other Intelligence Community activities which do not have access to SOCOMM may be transmitted via the Defense Special Security Communications Systems (DSSCS) using routing instructions to be provided by the Communications

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Office, or via the Intelligence Community E-mail (ICE) system. General Service (GENSER) messages will use routing addresses provided in Appendix E (on page 41).

**b. Telephones/Facsimile/E-Mail/Internet.**

1) The NRO's secure red phone system and the STU-III voice phones remain the preferred telephone system for all official calls, whether classified or unclassified. Telephone answering procedures remain unchanged.

2) Classified and sensitive as well as compartmented information will continue to be transmitted over a secure facsimile. E-mail and facsimiles between unclassified locations will no longer need to be classified or handled as classified simply because of NRO association. Unclassified e-mail messages and facsimiles to or between classified facilities will be appropriately classified and protected.

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3) Personnel may continue to use existing unclassified e-mail systems or Internet account addresses. Use remains unclassified as long as the routing indicator does not reveal classified information, [REDACTED]

4) Do not enter classified or For Official Use Only information on the Internet or in the local unclassified e-mail systems. Good OPSEC practices must be followed.

**c. Courier.** The NRO courier system or the Defense Courier Service remain the preferred method of transporting documentation.

**d. Correspondence.** Personnel will use OSAF letterhead for official classified and unclassified correspondence. Letters on NRO letterhead must be signed by D/OSL or DD/OSL. A memorandum without letterhead will be used in those cases where unclassified NRO association is not possible. See Appendix E (on page 41) for examples of letterhead and approved signature blocks.

**e. Subscriptions.** MS&O will continue to be responsible for official-use paid subscriptions. The unclassified address in Appendix E will be used when a subscription is ordered for a declassified element.

**f. Business Cards.**

1) Government personnel may be authorized NRO business cards by the D/OSL or DD/OSL on a case-by-case basis.

a) Those government personnel whose positions have been declassified and who have a justifiable need are generally considered eligible for NRO business cards. Business cards will be purchased at the individuals's own expense and used only for official business. NRO business cards will not be used during travel to sites or locations that remain classified.

b) Requests for NRO business cards must be submitted in writing to the approving authority. Upon approval, the component security officer will ensure that classified information is not revealed on the card and that the appropriate telephone numbers and addresses are indicated. NRO business cards may identify actual work telephone number, to

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include red numbers. GWAN/CWAN e-mail addresses will not be included. The business card shouldn't draw attention to the red number.

c) See Appendix E (on page 41) for examples of approved government NRO business card formats.

2) Contractor business cards will not contain any NRO related information, i.e. NRO logo, NRO Directorate, GWAN/CWAN addresses, etc. Contractor business cards may identify actual work telephone number, to include red numbers. However, the business card shouldn't draw attention to the red number.

**g. Travel.**

1) **Travel Orders.** Declassification of NRO launch-related information does not affect the travel reservation and accounting processes declassified personnel may use. Any SAF/SP blanket travel orders will be cancelled [redacted]

2) **NRO Travel Office.** Personnel may continue to use existing arrangements or may use the NRO Travel Office provided Travel Reservations and Processing System (TRAPS) system currently used by acknowledged NRO Headquarters personnel. Elements at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, and OAS will identify an official authorized to approve all TRAPS provided travel. Furthermore, all four nodes will develop and submit travel profile sheets for all personnel the NRO Travel Office will support.

3) **Foreign Travel.** Regardless of which of the two processes is used, any travel to foreign ground stations will be coordinated with the site being visited, owning Directorate, or the NRO Cover & Liaison Staff prior to traveling.

**6. Program Control.**

**a. Budget.**

1) The NRO budget remains classified and compartmented. The NRO's current comptroller arrangements and budgeting methods and techniques will be preserved to allow for covert activities when necessary.

2) Comptroller arrangements managed through or by other NRO offices but that support declassified locations will continue, without revision or change unless specifically identified.

3) All existing classified and unclassified SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO launch related comptroller arrangements, budgets, and purchase requests (PR) will administratively become NRO budgets and PRs, without revision or change unless specifically identified. OL QPS and OL VNBG will investigate assuming management functions for NRO Job Order Number (JON) funds currently managed by the host organization and the establishment of OL JONs. Otherwise existing SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO fund site numbers will remain in force and existing funding commitments, PRs, and administrative processes will continue.

4) The fact that budgets have 'transitioned' to the NRO is unclassified but will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but may be acknowledged, as necessary, in the normal course of business.

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This means unclassified and collateral budget information will eventually become officially recognized as NRO through administrative actions, award fee reviews, contract changes, budget actions, and general correspondence.

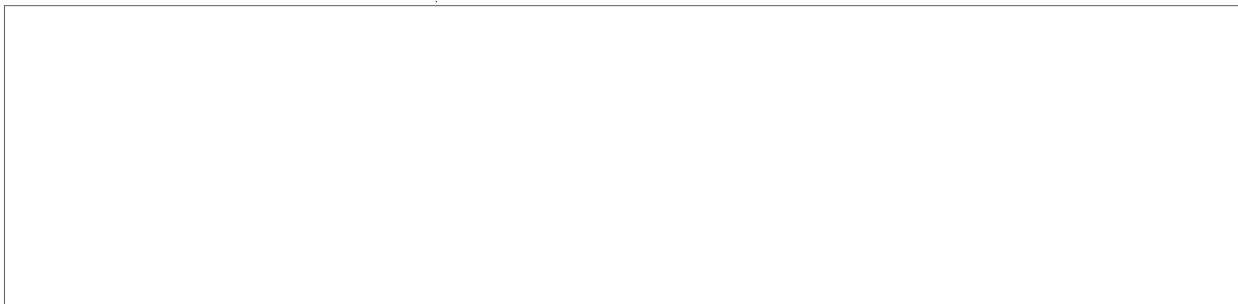
**b. Contracting.**

1) There is no change to current NRO contracting policies. The practice of issuing companion BYE contracts for OSL collateral contracts will continue for an indeterminate period. The OSL Contracting Officer will assess the need to continue this practice after launch declassification is fully implemented.

2) All existing classified and unclassified SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO launch related contracts will administratively become NRO OSL contracting instruments, without revision or change unless specifically identified. Contracts will not be novated nor replacing instruments issued unless specifically required. The OSL Contracting Officer, working with OSL Security, will issue contracting letters notifying the contractors of the administrative change, providing a letter change to the applicable DD Form 254, and directing that no contractor action is required. Existing SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO contract numbers will remain in force and will remain legally binding documents. Existing funding commitments and administration processes will continue.

3) The fact that contracts have become NRO instruments is unclassified but will NOT be released at the 1 March 1997 effective date but may be acknowledged, as necessary, in the normal course of business. This means these contracts will eventually become officially recognized as NRO contracts through administrative actions, award fee reviews, contract changes, budget actions, and general correspondence.

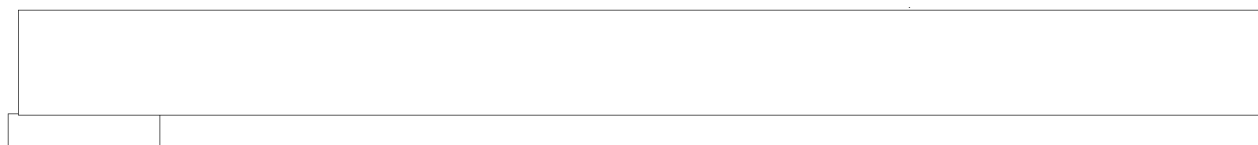
**7. Operations.**



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b. Effective 1 March 1997, OD-4 as an NRO organization will be classified SECRET Collateral. OD-4 as an organization that supports the NRO will be FOUO. AFSCN support to the NRO is FOUO.

c. NRO mission ground and/or spacecraft on-orbit operations will NOT be declassified and remain compartmented.



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### 8. Legacy/History.

a. All SAF/SP personnel will be administratively transferred to [ ]  
[ ] SAF/SL, SAF/SO, or SAF/ST and SAF/SP will be deactivated at a future date. The NRO-SAF/SP relationship and SAF/SP's operational history remains classified and, as appropriate, compartmented.

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b. History/Past Missions. NRO past missions remain classified. Classification of and display of existing historical or legacy items (e.g. plaques, pictures, nameplates, etc.) are unchanged and are not to be affected by NRO launch declassification. However, good OPSEC practices and care should be taken to avoid creating linkages between past missions and the NRO or future missions.

### 9. Training.

a. An AIG 711 SOCOMM message will be released announcing the NRO Launch Declassification effort approximately one week prior to Stage I and Stage II implementation. A [ ] message will be released in parallel notifying the collateral launch support community.

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b. OSL Security in conjunction with the NRO Security Policy and the Training Branch will prepare introductory briefings for all NRO personnel on the NRO Launch Declassification effort. OSL and OD-4 Security will contact and brief key AFSPC, USSPC, SMC, and contractor personnel prior to the 18 Dec 1996 and 1 March 1997 implementation dates.

c. A RED phone hotline [ ] has been established for comments and questions relative to the NRO Launch Declassification effort. The OSL declassification team will monitor this voice mailbox and, as appropriate, respond to specific queries. Also, as appropriate, questions and responses will be incorporated into the Questions and Answers appendix to this plan.

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d. A GWAN mailgroup (declass-launch) has been established for routing of comments or questions related to the launch declassification effort. The OSL declassification team will monitor this mailbox and, as appropriate, respond to specific queries. Also, as appropriate, questions and responses will be incorporated into the Questions and Answers appendix to this plan.

e. The Implementation Plan for NRO Launch Declassification and the Public Affairs Plan will be available for general access in the GWAN.

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Library/References/Security/Launch/Declass\_Plan folder. The plan will also be available for CWAN/GWAN WWW access via links established on the NRO WWW 'What's New' page and OSL home page. The plan will be available directly at the [REDACTED] address. Comments and queries should be e-mailed to the declass-launch mailgroup.

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## Appendix A

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Classified.** Information or material that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 12958 or any predecessor order to require protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national security. There are three levels of classification: Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret. (EO 12958)

**Compartmented.** Classified information concerning or derived from intelligence sources, methods, or analytical processes. Such information requires protection within a special access program or control system established by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). Information handled within a DCI established special compartmented security control channel is identified as Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). See 'Special Access Program' definition below.

**Declassification.** The authorized change in the status of information from classified to unclassified. (EO 12958)

**Declassified.** Information or material that, although formerly classified by proper authority, no longer requires protection as stipulated in the pertinent EO and DCI Directives (DCID) and becomes unclassified. (EO 12958)

**Decompartmented.** Classified information that formerly was handled within formal access control system established by the DCI and which has been formally removed from those systems. Decompartmentation refers only to removal of classified information from SCI control systems, and does not pertain to its classification level. Decompartmented information may remain classified.

**Downgrading.** A determination by a declassification authority that information classified and safeguarded at a specified level shall be classified and safeguarded at a lower level. (EO 12958)

**For Official Use Only.** "For Official Use Only" (FOUO) is official government information that does not meet EO 12958 requirements for classification but still requires protection - either because of operational sensitivities or privacy/administrative concerns. The purpose of FOUO is to limit the dissemination of information to official channels. This control marking may be used whenever unclassified intelligence information does not warrant a national security classification but does require some limitation in dissemination. FOUO is not a classification and should not be used as a substitute for classification.

**Special Access Program.** A program established for a specific class of classified information that imposes safeguarding and access require-

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ments that exceed those normally required for information at the same classification level. The BYEMAN security control system is a special access program. (EO 12958)

**Unclassified.** Information or material that, pursuant to EO 12958 or any predecessor order, has been determined to NOT require protection against unauthorized disclosure and that will NOT be designated as classified. Certain unclassified information may be withheld from public release pursuant to statute or other applicable authority.

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**Appendix B****CLASSIFICATION GUIDANCE**

<b>Operations:</b>			
Information Revealing association of NRO with	Prior to K-13 Launch	After 1 March 1997	Comments
2. A satellite or launch vehicle:			
2.1 Launched before Dec 1996.	S-BYE	S-BYE	The NRO has announced that 145 CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD satellites were launched from Van- denberg AFB between 1960 and 1972.
2.2 Launched on K-13.	S-BYE	U	Fact of NRO sponsorship was declassified with release of the K-13 Launch Announcement.
2.3 To be launched after Dec 1996.	S-BYE	U	Unclassified unless D/NRO or other appropriate authority determines that fact of NRO sponsorship is classified.
3. A program's:			
3.1 Program name/code- words.	S-BYE	S-BYE	
3.2 AFP designator:			
3.2.1 Fact that some NRO SVs are integrated, launched, and oper- ated under Air Force Program designators.	S-BYE	U	

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**Operations:**

Information Revealing association of NRO with	Prior to K-13 Launch	After 1 March 1997	Comments
3.2.2 Fact that AFP 104, 141, 259, 326, 465, 475, 557, 580, 623, 732, 774, 843, 868, 878, and 946 are NRO satellite programs.	S-BYE	U	True of all currently operational and future AFPs unless D/NRO or other appropriate author- ity determines that fact of NRO sponsorship is classified.
	S-BYE	S-BYE	(b)(1) (b)(3)
3.2.4 Fact that AFP 162, 241, 622A, and 846 were the AFP designa- tors for launches other than Corona, Argon, and Lanyard.	See Remark	See Remark	This information will be handled IAW the NRO Declassification Guide for CORONA, ARGON, LAN- YARD Programmatic Data.
3.2.5 Fact that AFP 162, 241, 622A, and 846 were the AFP designa- tors for Corona, Argon, and Lanyard launches.	See Remark	See Remark	This information will be handled IAW the NRO Declassification Guide for CORONA, ARGON, LAN- YARD Programmatic Data.
4. The launch Manifest for a/an:			
4.1 Program name/code- words.	S-BYE	S-BYE	

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**Operations:**

Information Revealing association of NRO with	Prior to K-13 Launch	After 1 March 1997	Comments
4.2 AFP.	S Collateral	S Collateral 1.5(a) X1,4	No AFP information or documentation is explic- itly declassified as part of this transition.
4.3 Satellite when identi- fied by 'NRO' with no further elaboration.	S-BYE	U	Unclassified unless D/NRO or other appropriate authority determines that fact of NRO sponsorship is classified. NOTE: Inclusion of more than one planned 'NRO' launch on an unclassified manifest is FOUO.
4.4 LV.	S-BYE	U	
5. Launch vehicles, i.e.			
5.1 Fact NRO will use any viable US launch sys- tem including Titan IV, Atlas II, EELV, Taurus, and others.	U	U	
5.2 Fact NRO satellites have been launched by the Space Transporta- tion System (STS).	S-BYE	S-BYE	
5.3 Fact the STS sup- ported intelligence missions.	C	C 1.5(c) X1	
6. IRON:			
6.1 Assigned for launch.	S-BYE	U-FOUO	
6.2 Assigned for flight command and control.	S-BYE	S Collateral 1.5(a), (c), (e) X1	
7. Space Cargo Transporta- tion System (SCTS).	S-BYE	U	

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**Organization:**

Information Revealing association of NRO with	Prior to K-13 Launch	After 1 March 1997	Comments
	S-BYE	S-BYE	
	n/a	S-BYE 1.5(a), (c), (e) X1,3,4	
3. SAF/SL as assignment element for AF personnel attached to the NRO.	n/a	U	
4. SAF/SP as assignment element for AF personnel attached to the NRO and as integration and launch OCAs for NRO sponsored AFPs.	S-BYE or TK	S Collateral 1.5(a), (c), (e) X1,3,4	
5. SAF/SO as assignment element for AF personnel attached to the NRO.	n/a	U	Location of SAF/SO <input type="text"/>
6. SAF/SS:			
6.1 As assignment element for AF personnel attached to the NRO.	S-TK	S-TK	
6.2 As integration and launch OCAs for NRO sponsored AFPs.	S-TK	S Collateral 1.5(a), (c), (e) X1,3,4	
7. SAF/ST as assignment element for AF personnel attached to the NRO.	U	U	
8. CLX/IMO.	S-BYE	U	
9. OL-QPS.	S-BYE	U	
10. OL-VNBG.	S-BYE	U	
11. OD-4 and:			
11.1 Fact of NRO element.	S-BYE	S Collateral 1.5(a), (c), (e) X1,3,4	

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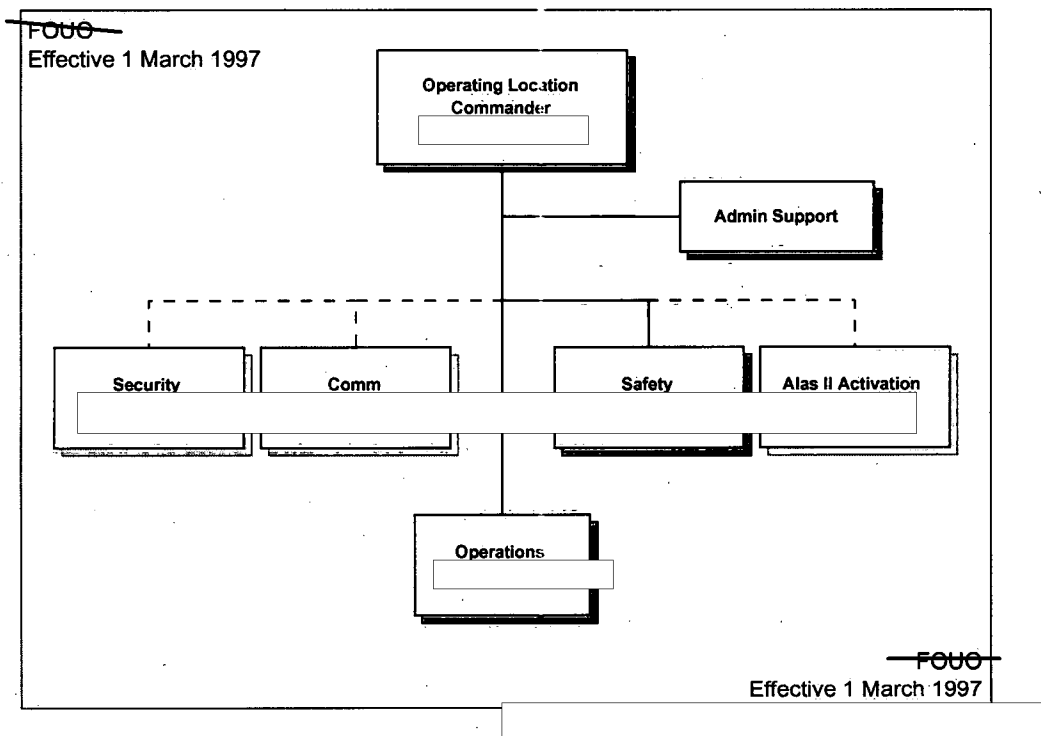
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Figure C.4 OL VNBG

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**Appendix D****MISSION AND FUNCTIONS****NRO**

(U) The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is as an agency of the Department of Defense and is funded through a program known as the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). The NRO manages this single, national program to meet US government intelligence needs through spaceborne and airborne reconnaissance.

(U) The mission of the NRO in the 21st century is to enable the U.S. Government and military information superiority, during peace through war. The NRO is responsible for the unique and innovative technology, large scale systems engineering, development and acquisition, and operation of space reconnaissance systems and related intelligence activities needed to support global information superiority.

(U) The NRO's vision statement is:

Freedom's Sentinel in Space:

One Team, Revolutionizing Global Reconnaissance

(U) The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) has the ultimate responsibility, which is exercised in concert with the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), for the management and operation of the NRO. The director of the NRO reports to the Secretary and to the DCI. The DCI establishes collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and the frequency of coverage; approves, along with the SECDEF, the NRP budget; provides security policy guidance for the NRP; and guides and participates in the formulation of the NRP through the Director of the NRO. The Director of the NRO has responsibility for executing NRO programs, which the Director accomplishes in conjunction with the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency.

SPACE LAUNCH OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ASST. SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(SPACE) (SAF/SL)

(U) TBS

SPACE OPERATIONS OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE ASST. SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(SPACE) (SAF/SO)

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#### OFFICE of SPACE LAUNCH

(U) The NRO Office of Space Launch exists to support the NRO Spacecraft program Offices and the NRO Mission Director in ensuring the successful launch and deployment of an operating spacecraft into its proper orbit. Put simply; put good hardware into the right orbit. It manages all aspects of launch for the NRO to include launch vehicle procurement, spacecraft/launch vehicle integration, launch related systems safety, and launch operations. It manages common launch services and generic hardware, coordinates program unique requirements within the NRO, and represents all NRO launch requirements to outside agencies.

#### DIRECTOR, OSL

(U) The Director, Office of Space Launch, is primarily responsible to the assistant secretary of the Air Force (space) for assisting the secretary in discharging responsibility for the direction, supervision, policy, security and control of space systems. He is also responsible for operating and directing space launch activities for national space systems supporting the Department of Defense and he maintains liaisons with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and other governmental agencies' space matters.

#### DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OSL

(U) TBS

#### LAUNCH MISSION DIRECTOR

(U) TBS

#### LAUNCH OFFICE

(U) TBS

#### CCAS OPERATING LOCATION (OL QPS)

(U) OL QPS manages all aspects of launch processing at Cape Canaveral Air Station for the Space Launch Office, Office of the Asst. Secretary of the Air Force (Space), to include spacecraft/launch vehicle integration, launch related systems safety, and launch operations. OL QPS manages launch services and generic hardware, coordinates program unique requirements within the SAF/SL, and represents all SAF/SL launch requirements to CCAS agencies.

#### VAFB OPERATING LOCATION (OL VNBG)

(U) OL VNBG manages all aspects of launch processing at Vandenberg AFB for the Space Launch Office, Office of the Asst. Secretary of the Air Force (Space), to include spacecraft/launch vehicle integration, launch related systems safety, and launch operations. OL VNBG manages launch services and generic hardware, coordinates program unique requirements within the SAF/SL, and represents all SAF/SL launch

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requirements to VAFB agencies.

OPERATING DIVISION 4 (OD-4)

(U) OD-4 provides operations and launch support for classified national level space programs supporting individual military services, unified commands, the Department of Defense, and Cabinet level decision makers.

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**Appendix E****ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS**

1. Assignment/Office Codes. HRMG will establish office assignment codes and general procedures to properly annotate all career briefs, evaluations, unit manning documents, etc., in order to accurately reflect NRO affiliation. All SAF/SP personnel and elements will be transferred to other OSAF elements. OSL personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB and that are declassified under this action will administratively transfer to SAF/SL. Personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB that remain classified and non-OSL personnel will administratively transfer to [ ] or SAF/ST with [ ] OSL SAF/SP personnel assigned to OD-4/DL will administratively transfer to SAF/SL with assignment location data masked. All other SAF/SP personnel assigned to OAS OD-4 will administratively transfer to SAF/SO [ ] Personnel at SAF/SP MGS locations, including OD-4 personnel assigned to Whitesands, NM, remain compartmented and will transition to [ ] or SAF/SO [ ] "Figure E.1. Administrative Changes" on page 42, graphically summarizes these changes. HRMG will establish office assignment codes and general procedures to properly annotate all career briefs, evaluations, unit manning documents, etc., in order to accurately reflect NRO affiliation.

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**2. Unclassified Addresses****a. OSL**

- 1) The unclassified OSL HQs address is:

Office of Space Launch  
14675 Lee Road  
Chantilly, VA 20151-1715

- 2) The unclassified DD/OSL address is:

Office of Space Launch  
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467  
Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659

**b. LAAFB**

- 1) The LPO unclassified and FEDEX address is:

SAF/SL  
Launch Program Office  
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467-A5  
Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659

- 2) The LPO General Service (GENSER) address is:

SAF/SL LAAFB, CA

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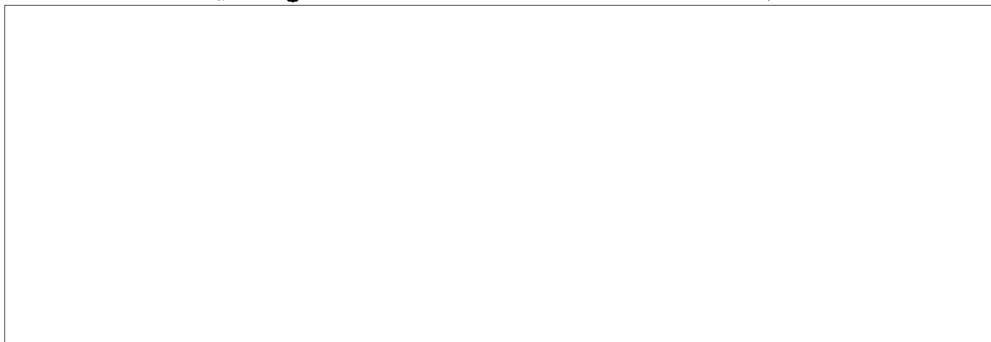
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Figure E.1. Administrative Changes

3) All other elements sited in A-5 will use their unclassified organization identifier, e.g. LAOSSO, Contracts, Det 9, etc. as the first address line.

2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467-A5  
Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659.



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## d. VAFB

- 1) The OL VNBG unclassified address is:

OL VNBG  
P.O. Box 5354  
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5354

- 2) The OL VNBG FEDEX address is:

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_  
Building 2500  
32nd Street  
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437

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## e. OAS

- 1) The OD-4 unclassified and FEDEX address is:

OD-4  
Onizuka Air Station  
1080 Lockheed Way Box 036  
Sunnyvale, CA 94089-1234

(b)(3)

## 3. Signature Blocks.

- a. The unclassified signature block for D/OSL and DD/OSL is:

HOWARD J. MITCHELL, Brig Gen, USAF  
Director, Office of Space Launch

- b. The unclassified signature block for the LPO and OL personnel will not reflect NRO affiliation. LPO and OL personnel will normally use Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (OSAF) letterhead or blank memoranda. Unclassified signature block examples are:

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c. Senior Rater signature block on all declassified OSL Air Force military personnel performance reports will be:

HOWARD J. MITCHELL, Brig Gen, USAF      Director, Office of  
SAF/SL (ELM)      Space Launch, NRO  
Washington, D.C.

d. Senior Rater signature block on performance reports for OSL Air Force military personnel remaining classified will be:

HOWARD J. MITCHELL, Brig Gen, USAF      Director  
SAF/ST (ELM)  
Washington, D.C.

e. Senior Rater signature block on all decompartmented OD-4 Air Force military personnel performance reports will be:

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#### 4. Letterhead.

a. Only the OSL Director and Deputy Director will normally use NRO letterhead. Correspondence on NRO letterhead by all other personnel will be FOUO at a minimum.

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 <p><b>NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE</b></p> <p>MEMORANDUM FOR xxxxxxx</p> <p>FROM: Deputy Director, Office of Space Launch 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467-A5 Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659</p> <p>SUBJECT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx</p>
---


b. All LPO, OL and OD-4 personnel will normally use OSAF letterhead or blank memoranda. OD-4 personnel will NOT use NRO letterhead except for classified correspondence.

 <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE</b> WASHINGTON DC</p> <p>OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY</p> <p>MEMORANDUM FOR xxxxxxx</p> <p>FROM: Launch Program Office 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467-A5 Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659</p> <p>SUBJECT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx</p>
---

 <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE</b> WASHINGTON DC</p> <p>OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY</p> <p>MEMORANDUM FOR xxxxxxx</p> <p>FROM: OL VNBG P.O. Box 5354 Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5354</p> <p>SUBJECT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx</p>
---

#### 5. Sample Business Card Layouts.

a. D/OSL and DD/OSL may openly identify their NRO affiliation on personal business cards.

 <p><b>NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 150px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p>2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467 Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659</p>	
--	--

(b)(3)

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b. Personnel may purchase business cards at their own expense. Cards may reflect NRO affiliation for those persons assigned to elements that have been declassified. Local organization designators (e.g. OL QPS) may be reflected on business cards for persons in declassified elements or in elements that remain classified.

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Mission Integrator

2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467  
Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659



Launch Office

Mission Integrator

2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467  
Los Angeles AFB, CA 90245-4659

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**Appendix F****IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE and ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGES**

1. The following is the tentative schedule for development and implementation of the NRO Launch Declassification initiative.

- a. Oct 11 - Brief DD/NRO for concept approval and 'go ahead'
- b. Oct 28 - Notify AFSCN and AFSPC of international support issue
- c. Nov 18 - Brief D/OSL for implementation approach approval
- d. Nov 18 - Release DD/NRO letter notifying the DCI and SECDEF
- e. Nov 18 - Release letter(s) notifying CMO, DOC, DOS, DOT, JCS, SAF, NASA, NIMA, NSA, AFSPACE, SMC, and DIA
- f. Nov 19 - Release initial Implementation Plan draft
- g. Nov 21-29 - Notify and brief AFSPC, SMC, and SW of plans
- h. Dec 2 - Release D/OSL letter notifying contractors
- i. Dec 2 - Release final coordination Implementation Plan
- j. Dec 11 - Brief DD/NRO for approval to proceed
- k. Dec 12 - Notify and brief 30 SW PA and Protocol
- l. Dec 12 - Release SOCOMM [ ] announcement messages
- m. Dec 20 - Declassify fact of 'NRO satellite'
- n. Dec 20 - D/OSL attend post-launch press event
- o. Jan-Feb - HRMG complete actions creating and transferring personnel to SAF/SL, SAF/SO [ ]
- p. Feb 11 - NRO-wide VTC briefing to all NRO personnel and contractors
- q. Feb 12 - Briefing charts, video tapes, and scripts distributed to all locations
- r. Mar 1 - Declassification implemented without press release

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2. The following page contain various letters, memorandum, and messages announcing the NRO satellite launch acknowledgment.

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March 1, 1997

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**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**

14675 Lee Road  
Chantilly, VA 20151-1715

**Deputy Director's Note**

**Number 30**

**18 December 1996**

**NRO LAUNCH DECLASSIFIED**

I am pleased to inform you that effective today the following information has been declassified: 1) that the December Vandenberg AFB Titan IV launch carries an NRO payload; 2) that the satellite supports the NRO's mission; 3) that the NRO intends to launch future payloads on Titan, Atlas, and Evolved Expendable launch vehicles from Cape Canaveral Air Station, FL, and Vandenberg AFB, CA; and 4) that the NRO will consider the use of any available launch vehicle, including Shuttle, that meets its mission requirements and is cost effective. No other facts are being declassified; all information concerning the payload mission and operations remains classified.

This declassification decision officially acknowledges something which is already obvious. Moreover, efforts such as this to declassify "open secrets" are aimed at strengthening the credibility of the security system by protecting only that information which requires protection.

For those that are acknowledged NRO employees, this means that you can acknowledge to your families and friends that you are part of the team that places vital national systems into space, and that the launch from Vandenberg is such a system. We may receive national media attention for this historic NRO event.

All media queries should be referred to the Public Affairs Staff at (703) 808-1015. Personnel are reminded that they are not authorized to speak for the organization. Questions regarding security and classification issues should be referred to Office of Space Launch security officers or to NRO Security Policy.

//SIGNED//

Keith R. Hall  
Deputy Director

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March 1, 1997

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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Declassification of National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)  
Launches

~~(C)~~ This letter is to inform you of my intent to declassify and downgrade certain limited functional and administrative information relating to future NRO launches and the NRO Office of Space Launch (OSL). This is a calculated risk management decision based on analysis of both present and future launch operational profiles, open-source information availability, NRO mission objectives and critical capabilities, and the ongoing move towards openness in government. Although this action has been under consideration for some time, the Jeremiah Panel's recommendation for "aggressive action on further declassification" adds an additional impetus. These actions will not affect classification policy relative to technical data and intelligence system operations.

~~(S/TK)~~ The declassification will occur in two stages. Concurrent with the December 1996 Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) Titan IV launch, the NRO will declassify and release the fact that the booster carried an NRO satellite. I emphasize that we will not declassify the satellite's mission, technical data, or operational intelligence data. Prior to initiating Stage I, my staff will notify the various congressional delegations and intelligence committees, Departments of State and Commerce, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, appropriate Defense agencies (Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Security Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency), and other members of the Intelligence Community.

~~(S/TK)~~ The fact the NRO uses VAFB and Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS) for launch and launch support will be declassified during Stage II. Stage II will also formally declassify details

CL BY:   
CL REASON: 1.5(C)  
DECL ON: X1  
DRV FROM: NRO SCG 4.0  
14 Oct 95

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Implementation Plan  
NRO Launch Declassification

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March 1, 1997

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relating to the NRO OSL, to include OSL personnel and facilities at Los Angeles AFB, VAFB, and CCAS. Other activities, such as launch and early on-orbit operations, command and control, and health and status will be evident, due to the unclassified operation and the acknowledgement the NRO uses the Air Force Satellite Control Network. However, the intelligence mission, tasking, data collection, down-links, operational data, data processing, [ ] will not be revealed. The OSL will undertake an aggressive campaign to educate all USAF offices and other agencies supporting the NRO launches on the details of the declassification prior to implementing Stage II on 1 March 1997. If we discover any problems with the anticipated declassification, we can adjust the details accordingly.

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~~(S)~~ Based on facts already publicly available, deductions on specific launches belonging to the NRO are logical; therefore, this declassification does not result in a significant increase in risk. However, there may be an increase in adversarial attention to launch and related activities and organizations due to the publicity and high visibility of the launch event. I believe that enhancing the efficiency of launch operations outweighs the risks imposed by this declassification action.

//SIGNED//

Keith R. Hall

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March 1, 1997

From: [ ] On Dec 13 00:03:50 GMT 1996  
Cite: 7881  
Dtg: 130002Z Dec 96  
To: Aig-711  
Prec: PRIORITY  
Ccpsec: PRIORITY  
Subjid: SECUR  
Security: ~~SECRET, BYEMAN~~  
Subject: NRO LAUNCH DECLASSIFICATION  
Decl: X1

INFO: KWCONCH [ ]

[ ]  
KWUNITE [ ]

SUBJECT: NRO LAUNCH DECLASSIFICATION

TO: SENIOR MANAGERS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES NOTICE OF FURTHER DECOMPARTMENTATION AND DECLASSIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO). PLEASE PROVIDE THE WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO BYE BRIEFED PERSONNEL.
2. THE RELEASE OF THE K-13 NRO PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESS NOTIFICATION PACKAGE WILL DECLASSIFY THE FACT OF NRO LAUNCH AND THE FOLLOWING ASSOCIATED INFORMATION: 1) THAT THE TITAN IV K-13 BOOSTER CARRIES AN NRO SATELLITE, 2) THAT THE SATELLITE SUPPORTS THE NRO'S INTELLIGENCE MISSION, AND 3) THE NRO INTENDS TO LAUNCH FUTURE MISSIONS ON TITAN, ATLAS, AND EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH SYSTEMS FROM CAPE CANAVERAL AIR STATION AND VANDENBERG AFB.
  - A. DECLASSIFICATION WILL OCCUR NO EARLIER THAN THE MORNING OF 16 DECEMBER. NO OTHER FACTS WILL BE DECLASSIFIED AT THAT TIME. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE TO BE CONFIRMED EVEN THOUGH THE DOD LAUNCH COMMUNITY WILL BE KNOWN TO SUPPORT THE NRO LAUNCH PROCESS AND OTHER INFORMATION MAY APPEAR EVIDENT.
  - B. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION POLICY RELATIVE TO TECHNICAL DATA, INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM OPERATIONS, MISSION CAPABILITIES, SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES, AND SENSITIVE OPERATING LOCATIONS. THIS INFORMATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLASSIFIED/COMPARTMENTED. EVEN THOUGH CERTAIN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LAUNCH AND EARLY ON-ORBIT OPERATIONS, COMMAND AND CONTROL, AND HEALTH AND STATUS WILL BE EVIDENT, THE NRO WILL NOT DISCUSS MISSION OPERATIONS.
  - C. TRAVEL BY DECLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REMAINS UNCHANGED, E.G., GOVERNMENT TO CONTRACTOR OR CONTRACTOR TO GOVERNMENT TRAVEL WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT NRO AFFILIATION. SIGN IN PROCEDURES ALSO REMAIN UNCHANGED.
  - D. NRO [ ] OTHER SENSITIVE SITES REMAIN CLASSIFIED AND COMPARTMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT DIRECTIVES.
  - E. THIS INITIATIVE IS A CALCULATED RISK MANAGEMENT DECISION BASED ON ANALYSIS OF BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE LAUNCH OPERATIONAL PROFILES, OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION AVAILABILITY, AND NRO MISSION OBJECTIVES AND CRITICAL CAPABILITIES. THIS IS ALSO IN RESPONSE TO ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES FOR INCREASED OPENNESS WITHIN GOVERNMENT. THE JEREMIAH PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION FOR

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"AGGRESSIVE ACTION ON FURTHER DECLASSIFICATION" ADDS AN ADDITIONAL IMPETUS.

3. FURTHER DECLASSIFICATION OF THE NRO LAUNCH PROCESS WILL OCCUR AT A LATER DATE. SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING AND GUIDANCE, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TO THE NRO, WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD BETWEEN THE DECEMBER LAUNCH ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND FURTHER DECLASSIFICATION UNDER THE NEXT STAGE. THIS WILL ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

5. IN SUMMARY, THE FACT THAT THE SCHEDULED DECEMBER 1996 VAFB TITAN IV LAUNCH CARRIES AN NRO SATELLITE WILL BE DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED JUST PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH.

6. ALL MEDIA QUERIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE USAF OR NRO PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AS APPROPRIATE. SHOULD YOU RECEIVE SUCH INQUIRIES PLEASE ADVISE THE NRO PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF AT SECURE [REDACTED] PERSONNEL ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE NRO. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE ACT JUDICIOUSLY AND CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE "NEED-TO-KNOW" PRINCIPLE.



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[REDACTED] 1.5(c)/X1/NROSCG 4.0, 14Oct95

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March 1, 1997

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
 THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
 THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY  
 AFFAIRS  
 ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
 THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
 THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
 THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
 CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY  
 CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
 COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS  
 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
 DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL IMAGERY AND MAPPING AGENCY  
 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPACE  
 COMMANDER, AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND  
 COMMANDER, AIR FORCE MATERIAL COMMAND  
 COMMANDER, SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS CENTER  
 COMMANDER, 14TH AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Declassification of National Reconnaissance Office  
 (NRO) Launches (U)

(C) This letter is to inform you of my intent to declassify  
 and decompartment certain limited functional and administrative  
 information relating to future NRO launches and the NRO Office of  
 Space Launch (OSL). This is a calculated risk management  
 decision based on analysis of both present and future launch

CL BY:   
 CL REASON: 1.5 (C)  
 DECL ON: X1  
 DRV FROM: NRO SCG 4.0  
14 OCT 95

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operational profiles, open-source information availability, NRO mission objectives and critical capabilities, and the ongoing move towards openness in government. Although this action has been under consideration for some time, the Jeremiah Panel's recommendation for "aggressive action on further declassification" adds an additional impetus. These actions will not affect classification policy relative to technical data and intelligence system operations.

~~(S/TK)~~ The declassification will occur in two stages. Concurrent with the December 1996 Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) Titan IV launch, the NRO will declassify and release the fact that the booster carries an NRO satellite. I emphasize that we will not declassify the satellite's mission, technical data, or operational intelligence data.

~~(S/TK)~~ The fact that the NRO uses VAFB and Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS) for launch and launch support will be declassified during Stage II. Stage II will also formally declassify details relating to the NRO OSL, to include OSL personnel and facilities at Los Angeles AFB, VAFB, and CCAS. Other activities, such as launch and early on-orbit operations, command and control, and health and status will be evident, due to the unclassified operation of the Air Force Satellite Control Network. However, the intelligence mission, tasking, data collection, down-links, operational data, data processing, and mission ground stations will not be revealed.

~~(S)~~ Based on facts already publicly available, deductions on specific launches belonging to the NRO are logical; therefore, this declassification does not result in a significant increase in risk. However, there may be an increase in adversarial attention to launch and related activities and organizations due to the publicity and high visibility of the launch event. I believe that enhancing the efficiency of launch operations outweighs the risks imposed by this declassification action.

Keith R. Hall

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March 1, 1997

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 3 - Secretary of Transportation  
 4 - Secretary of Commerce  
 5 - Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 6 - Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
 7 - Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
 8 - Secretary of the Army  
 9 - Secretary of the Navy  
 10 - Secretary of the Air Force  
 11 - Chief of Staff, US Army  
 12 - Chief of Staff, US Air Force  
 13 - Chief of Naval Operations  
 14 - Commandant of the Marine Corps  
 15 - Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
 16 - Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
 17 - Director, National Security Agency  
 18 - Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency  
 19 - Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Space  
 20 - Commander, Air Force Space Command  
 21 - Commander, Air Force Material Command  
 22 - Commander, Space and Missile Systems Center  
 23 - Commander, 14th Air Force

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## INTERNAL COPIES:

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - DDNRO/Mr. Hall         | 1 - D/OSA/R. Pattishall |
| 1 - DDNS/M. Munson         | 1 - DD/ODI [redacted]   |
| 1 - DDMS/BGen Baker        | 1 - D/OSO/D. Wells      |
| 1 - DDMS/MSS [redacted]    | 1 - Launch [redacted]   |
| 1 - ROM/LL/[redacted]      | 1 - DDMS [redacted]     |
| 1 - D/IMINT/R. Larned      |                         |
| 1 - IM [redacted]          |                         |
| 1 - IM/[redacted]          |                         |
| 1 - D/SIGINT/D. Fitzgerald |                         |
| 1 - PDD/SIGIN [redacted]   |                         |
| 1 - SI-[redacted]          |                         |
| 1 - SIGINT/[redacted]      |                         |
| 1 - SIGINT/[redacted]      |                         |
| 1 - SIGINT/[redacted]      |                         |
| 1 - D/P&A/J. Grant         |                         |
| 1 - D/COMMS/M. Mitchell    |                         |
| 1 - COMM/[redacted]        |                         |

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March 1, 1997

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NRO//DIR//

CJCS//

VCJCS//

INFO JOINT STAFF//J2/J3/J35/J38/DSOL/J6//

SSO DIA//DR/CL-1C//

USCINACOM//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO LNC/NRO TSR//

SSO CINCCENT//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO TSR//

SSO USEUCOM//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO LNO/NRO TSR//

USCINCPAC//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO LNO/NRO TSR//

USSOUTHCOM//CC/J2/J3/J5//

USCINCSpace//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO TSR//

SSO CINCSOC//CC/J2/J3/J5/NRO TSR//

SSO STRATCOM//CC/J2/J3/J5//

SSO USTRANS//CC/J2/J3/J5//

SSO USFK//CC/J2/J3/J5//

NRO//DDMS//

SUPEL//OPS//

OSO//DIR/OPS//

~~SECRET HANDLE VIA TALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS ONLY~~

USAF  
OFFICE OF SPACE LAUNCH

KEITH R. HALL, DDNRO,

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March 1, 1997

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DO NOT TRANSMIT VIA OPINTEL BROADCAST

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SUBJ: NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO) NOTIFICATION MESSAGE

NUMBER 101 - DECLASSIFICATION OF NRO LAUNCHES (U)

1. ~~(S)~~ THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM YOU OF MY INTENT TO DECLASSIFY AND DECOMPARTMENT CERTAIN LIMITED FUNCTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO FUTURE NRO LAUNCHES AND THE NRO OFFICE OF SPACE LAUNCH (OSL). THIS IS A CALCULATED RISK MANAGEMENT DECISION BASED ON ANALYSIS OF BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE LAUNCH OPERATIONAL PROFILES, OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION AVAILABILITY, NRO MISSION OBJECTIVES AND CRITICAL CAPABILITIES, AND THE ONGOING MOVE TOWARDS OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS ACTION HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME, THE JEREMIAH PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION FOR "AGGRESSIVE ACTION ON FURTHER DECLASSIFICATION" ADDS AN ADDITIONAL IMPETUS. THESE ACTIONS WILL NOT AFFECT CLASSIFICATION POLICY RELATIVE TO TECHNICAL DATA AND INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM OPERATIONS.

2. ~~(S/TK)~~ THE DECLASSIFICATION WILL OCCUR IN TWO STAGES.

CONCURRENT WITH THE DECEMBER 1996 VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (VAFB)

USAF  
OFFICE OF SPACE LAUNCH

KEITH R. HALL, DDNRO,

~~HANDLE VIA TALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS ONLY~~~~SECRET~~(b)(3)  
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03 04 111800Z DEC 96 PP PP SSSS NRO OSF  
NO DDI: SOA/

TITAN IV LAUNCH, THE NRO WILL DECLASSIFY AND RELEASE THE FACT THAT THE BOOSTER CARRIES AN NRO SATELLITE. I EMPHASIZE THAT WE WILL NOT DECLASSIFY THE SATELLITE'S MISSION, TECHNICAL DATA, OR OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DATA.

3. ~~(S)~~ (TK) THE FACT THAT THE NRO USES VAFB AND CAPE CANAVERAL AIR STATION (CCAS) FOR LAUNCH AND LAUNCH SUPPORT WILL BE DECLASSIFIED DURING STAGE II. STAGE II WILL ALSO FORMALLY DECLASSIFY DETAILS RELATING TO THE NRO OSL, TO INCLUDE OSL PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES AT LOS ANGELES AFB, VAFB, AND CCAS. OTHER ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS LAUNCH AND EARLY ON-ORBIT OPERATIONS, COMMAND AND CONTROL, AND HEALTH AND STATUS WILL BE EVIDENT, DUE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED OPERATION OF THE AIR FORCE SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK. HOWEVER, THE INTELLIGENCE MISSION, TASKING, DATA COLLECTION, DOWN-LINKS, OPERATIONAL DATA, DATA PROCESSING, [REDACTED] WILL NOT BE REVEALED.

4. ~~(S)~~ BASED ON FACTS ALREADY PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, DEDUCTIONS ON SPECIFIC LAUNCHES BELONGING TO THE NRO ARE LOGICAL; THEREFORE, THIS DECLASSIFICATION DOES NOT RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RISK. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE AN INCREASE IN ADVERSARIAL ATTENTION TO LAUNCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS DUE TO THE

[REDACTED] USAF  
OFFICE OF SPACE LAUNCH  
KEITH R. HALL, DDNRO, [REDACTED]

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04 04 111800Z DEC 96 PP PP SSSS NRO OSF

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PUBLICITY AND HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE LAUNCH EVENT. I BELIEVE THAT  
ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF LAUNCH OPERATIONS OUTWEIGHS THE RISKS  
IMPOSED BY THIS DECLASSIFICATION ACTION.

5. (U) THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE JOINT STAFF.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT STAFF/J-35, NATIONAL  
SYSTEMS SUPPORT [REDACTED]

CL: [REDACTED], 1.5(C), X1, NRO SCG 4.0, 14 OCT 95

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[REDACTED] USAF  
OFFICE OF SPACE LAUNCH

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KEITH R. HALL, DDNRO, [REDACTED]

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## Appendix G

## SMC/CLX &amp; SMC/IMO CONTRACTS

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Table G.1: Contracts Approved for Unclassified NRO Affiliation

Contractor		Division/Mgr	Description
Analex (-)			Atlas II IV&V
Econ Logistic Mgt. (-)			Bldg A5 Movers
L&V Movers (-)			Bldg A5 Movers
LM Astronau- tics (DUNE)			Atlas Launch Vehicle Integration
LM Astronau- tics (DUNE)			SLC-3 Construction/Activation
LM Federal Systems (MAYOR)			Mission Director Support
LM Missile and Space (GANTRY)			Launch Site Ops Support (LSOS) com- panion & SLC-3E Comm Activation
LM Missile and Space (GANTRY)			Launch Site Processing Support (LSPS)
McDonnell Dou- glas Astronau- tics Co. (HYMN)			Dual Integration

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**Table G.2: Contracts Requiring Protected NRO Affiliation**

Contractor		Division/Mgr	Description

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**Table G.3: Contracts Pending Review**

Contractor		Division/Mgr	Description
None			

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**Appendix H**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**Relating to Decompartmentation/Declassification**  
**of NRO Launches**

**Organization**

Effective 1 March 1997, the OSL Deputy Director (DD/OSL) position will be declassified and added to the released NRO organization chart. Also effective 1 March 1997, the entire OSL structure will be declassified but not added to the released NRO organization chart. The SMC/CLX and SMC/IMO launch related organization and functions will transition to the NRO OSL. OD-4 will become NRO at a Secret collateral classification level. Communication support to the NRO will be acknowledge but otherwise ITG organization and functions remain unchanged. Functions and offices that co-use or are sited with OSL or OD-4 units will be evaluated for classification on a case-by-case basis, with decisions being based on parent organization directions and implementation processes.

1. Can you show me an organization chart that reflects what is unclassified on 1 March 1997?

Yes. The charts in Appendix C contain functions which will be unclassified. If names are listed with the functions, the chart is For Official Use Only (FOUO) and may be distributed after 1 March 1997 for business purposes.

2. Are there unclassified mission statements for those elements shown on the organization chart?

Yes. These statements have been developed for use in the conduct of official business in unclassified settings. The unclassified mission and function statements are printed in the Implementation Plan. Your program security officer has a copy. NRO Office of Corporate Communications will be the single entry point for all contacts from the public and media.

3. May I publish an unclassified NRO site phone list?

Yes. But the list should not be labeled 'NRO'. All personnel rosters and telephone lists are FOUO and may be distributed after 1 March 1997 for business purposes.

4. What happens to the government organizations that provide support to the NRO launch process?

SAF/SP will be disbanded and all personnel and elements transferred to other OSAF elements. Personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB and that are declassified will administratively transfer to SAF/SL. Personnel assigned to SAF/SP elements at LAAFB, CCAS, and VAFB that remain classified will administratively transfer to SAF/ST with data masked assignment location. OSL SAF/SP personnel

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assigned to OD-4/DL will administratively transfer to SAF/SL with data masked assignment location. All other SAF/SP personnel assigned to OAS OD-4 will administratively transfer to SAF/SO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Central Intelligence Agency

Office of Development & Engineering (OD&E) remains the office within the CIA Directorate of Science and Technology through which the CIA assigns personnel to the NRO. The fact of OD&E as an NRO support mechanism is unclassified. The CIA Directorate for Administration (DA) also provides assignees to the NRO in various support roles, an unclassified fact, but the DA is not a dedicated support mechanism to the NRO and, as such, has no place on the NRO organizational chart.

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**Personnel**

The association between the NRO and personnel at LAAFB, CCAS and VAFB, except for those few who are specifically exempted, is unclassified. The association of OAS personnel with the NRO is SECRET collateral. The fact that OAS supports the NRO is FOUO. Although declassified, the identity of no NRO personnel will be officially released as occupying a specific NRO organizational position. Military and civilian personnel whose support to the NRO has been declassified will have their NRO support reflected in their unclassified assignment histories.

5. Can I say I work for a particular launch component (i.e., safety, operations) in an unclassified setting?

If the component is one of those included on the unclassified organization chart - yes.

6. When is it appropriate for me to talk about my NRO affiliation? What can I tell my family, friends and neighbors?

It is appropriate to disclose your NRO affiliation to facilitate NRO customer/user interfaces. Personnel may choose to disclose their NRO affiliation to family, close friends and neighbors provided this acknowledgment does not inadvertently reveal classified or compartmented information and relationships. However, NRO personnel should not acknowledge their NRO affiliation gratuitously in response to casual social or other inquiries, and are urged not to make indiscriminate admissions of NRO affiliation.

7. What can I say about who I work for, where I work, what I do, my work address and phone number? Can you give me an example?

Examples: I am an AF service member. I'm an engineer, security officer, contracts officer, etc. I am assigned to the NRO Launch Office. See Appendix E for official addresses.

8. Can you give me an example of a generic NRO job description that I could provide to family or friends?

A typical generic job description/title would be an "engineer" or "analyst" providing support to NRO launch. Any description that you use should be short and non-revealing of classified information.

9. How can a uniformed member of the military services describe their association with the NRO?

I am an active duty member of the (Army, Navy, Air Force) detailed/assigned to the NRO.

10. How should I respond to a question from an uncleared individual concerning the association of SAF/SS or SAF/SP to SAF/ST or SAF/SL?

There is no association between SAF/SS or SAF/SP or SAF/ST and SAF/SL. They are separate Air Force organizations with different missions.

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12. What can I put on a resume about my present employer and any past assignments with the NRO? What can I say about past NRO assignments?
- Your present employer is your parent organization/agency, i.e., CIA, AF, Navy, etc. Resumes prepared by NRO launch office personnel whose support to the NRO has been declassified should be reviewed by their supervisors in coordination with the component security officer to ensure that classified information is not revealed. As a rule, if your past NRO assignment ended prior to 1 March 1997 your past affiliation with the NRO remains classified. Only present and future assignments are subject to the new rules herein. Exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the DNRO.
13. Can NRO employees identify past or present NRO coworkers in unclassified settings?
- NRO personnel may identify present co-workers, after 1 March 1997, if those co-workers do not retain classified status. It is incumbent on all personnel to protect the affiliation of those employees whose position has not been declassified. Questions of this nature should be addressed to your BCO or to your component security officer.
14. Will the policy for wearing uniforms at NRO launch facilities change?
- There is no change in the policy with regard to the wearing of military uniforms.
15. What can I say about the NRO during business travel?
- You may acknowledge your NRO affiliation as needed. However, you should not discuss your NRO affiliation in non-business settings. Relationships between the NRO [ ] and sensitive operations/support sites remain classified and must be protected.
16. How should I sign in at contractor sites? Military bases?
- No change - use the same procedures as before. Sign in as "self" or with military identification if appropriate.
17. Will material with an NRO logo (certificates, memorabilia) be treated as unclassified?
- If your affiliation with the NRO is unclassified after 1 March 1997, NRO affiliation with your name will be treated as unclassified and may be used on certificates, etc. bearing the NRO logo.
18. Can I wear NRO memorabilia and past NRO launch logos at the same time?

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While not classified, it is not good OPSEC practice to wear indicators that can reveal or lead to classified information, i.e. past NRO launches.

19. Currently, courier id's and letters authorizing "hand carries" are not affiliated with the NRO, will this change?

There is no change in current travel procedures. Courier letters will not reflect NRO affiliation.

20. Are NRO business cards authorized?

NRO representational business cards may be authorized by management on a case-by-case basis, for those NRO personnel whose positions have been declassified, and whose jobs include official NRO contact with customers and/or the user community. Business cards will be purchased at the individuals' own expense and used only for official business. Private use of official business cards is prohibited. Requests for business cards must be submitted in writing and justify why official NRO business cards are needed. Approving officials will ensure that classified information is not revealed on the card, and that the appropriate telephone numbers and addressees are indicated. NRO business cards will not be used when visiting classified NRO locations, i.e., MGS and sensitive sites. They may be used when interfacing with non-NRO government agencies, i.e., AFSPC, SMC, etc.

21. What changes will occur to my Performance Appraisal or military performance report (OPR/EPR)?

Air Force

The only change is the job title, location and PAS code description. Your senior rater will be signing with an NRO title for all declassified NRO launch office personnel.

CIA

No change, although more direct reference to the NRO will be permitted.

22. Can my supervisor be more forthcoming regarding NRO activities as he/she is writing my performance report?

Yes - if your performance report is classified. No - if your performance report is unclassified. The text of performance reports should be consistent with the overall classification of the report, i.e. if the report is unclassified, as in military OPRs/EPRs, then the text must be unclassified.

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24. How does this downgrading affect the performance reports and awards for OD-4 personnel? Can the NRO be acknowledged?

Statements relating general support for NRO launch and early on-orbit configuration may be included. Care must be taken to ensure wording indicates 'support for' rather than 'assigned to.'

25. How do I handle meetings where NRO acknowledged personnel and non-acknowledged personnel are in attendance?

There is no change in procedure from the past where non-acknowledged NRO personnel (i.e. SVC, [redacted]) must remain covert. Both parties must take care not to expose the relationship. Yet it is perfectly acceptable for the acknowledged person to represent his/her affiliation with the NRO. OD-4 personnel will have to take extra care in how they represent themselves at external meetings, how they sign in, and how they represent NRO interests.

26. Who do I say I work for? OD-4? SAF/SP? SAF/SL? SAF/SO? [redacted] or the NRO?

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It depends on the audience and situation. For day to day activity, use your normal organization title. Normally you will not refer to yourself as NRO or SAF/SL or SAF/SO.

27. What can I say when confronted by unbriefed co-workers, family, etc., about the NRO launch and who I work for:

OL VNBG contractors: I work for (Contractor name) on contract to support the OL VNBG an AFELM of SAF/SL

OL VNBG Personnel: I am assigned to OL VNBG an AFELM of SAF/SL

Comm personnel: I am assigned to Det 1 supporting OL VNBG

SVCs: I am an ASC.

#### Ground Stations and Operational Sites/Locations

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28. How do I travel to covert locations if I am acknowledged as NRO?

Current procedures will continue to be used. Personnel will still travel in civilian clothes, use SATO travel arrangements, ensure their destinations are blurred through good OPSEC, and protect their association with the NRO.

29. What information can I discuss as a result of the 18 Dec launch acknowledgment?

The only information declassified and officially released concurrent

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with the December 1996 launch is the fact that the launch carries an NRO satellite. Personnel who interface with launch support organizations may become aware of or exposed to speculations related to NRO functions and operations as a result of the December 1996 Vandenberg AFB Titan IV launch acknowledgment. You should not comment nor become involved in confirming nor denying any speculations. However, if confronted prior to the 1 March 1997 effective date, you may acknowledge your NRO affiliation to the extent you would be able to after the 1 March 1997 effective date.

30. What can I tell people about where I work if I'm assigned to or visiting  or other classified NRO facility?

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31. Is there a way that I can identify myself as an NRO employee in an unclassified venue even though I work at a  General policy dictates that you do not reveal your affiliation with the NRO. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.
32. Will performance evaluations for people assigned to sensitive sites contain references to the NRO?

No. NRO affiliation will not be mentioned. OPR/EPRs remain unchanged in format, content, and rating official.

#### ITG

ITG's affiliation as part of the NRO remains SECRET BYE. The Detachments at LAAFB, CCAS, VAFB, and OAS may acknowledge that they provide support to the NRO, including for the NRO launch process. ITG elements at other locations remain compartmented.

33. What can I discuss about ITG's relationship with the NRO?

The fact that the ITG is part of the NRO structure remains SECRET BYE and will not be discussed outside those channels. However, the fact that Detachments known as ITG provide support to the NRO may be acknowledged. An example of supporting the NRO would be the launch support and interfaces provided by the on-site Detachments under the Launch Comm Office label.

34. Can I, as a Comm Det staffer, tell people the building I work in?

Yes. However, the fact you work in an NRO occupied/managed building should not be portrayed as being a member of that organization. You are assigned to an AF Comm element that supports the NRO at your location.

35. How do I travel to covert locations if I am acknowledged as supporting the NRO?

Current procedures will continue to be used. ITG Det personnel will still travel in civilian clothes, use SATO travel arrangements,

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ensure their destinations are blurred through good OPSEC, and protect their association with the NRO. In other words, nothing should change.

**OD-4**

OD-4 elements at OAS organization will become NRO at a Secret collateral level. OD-4 elements stationed at [ ] remain compartmented.

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36. What can I discuss about OD-4's relationship with the NRO?

Effective 1 March 1997, OD-4's relationship with the NRO will be decompartmented. The fact that OD-4 supports the NRO will be FOUO but the fact that the OD-4 is the NRO will be SECRET collateral. An example of supporting the NRO would be the launch support and interfaces provided by OD-4/DL.

37. Does the OD-4 decompartmentation affect ITG Det 7?

Yes. Det 7 will follow the same guidelines for decompartmentation as OD-4. Support for the NRO is FOUO while 'as the' NRO is SECRET collateral.

38. Can I, as an OD-4 staffer, tell people the building I work in?

Yes. However, the association of the NRO to our facilities is SECRET collateral.

39. How do OD-4 personnel represent themselves on the telephone or on the internet when they are in a 'support' role?

It is important for all OD-4 personnel to use caution when conversing on the open telephone or internet. Only unclassified terminology will be used; i.e. OD-4, [ ] etc. when referring to OD-4 activities. References to NRO are strongly discouraged when using open lines.

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40. Does the U.S. Government use overseas tracking stations that are part of the AFSCN to 'support' the NRO?

Details and particulars of NRO operations remain classified.

41. What is the real mission of the AFSCN as it relates to the NRO?

The primary mission of the AFSCN is to collect positional and velocity data on military and civil satellites as well as the space shuttle for the purpose of determining their orbit, a function that is important for the operation and safety of all spacecraft. Further details are classified.

42. Did the NRO operate the tracking systems for CORONA?

No.

43. What other kinds of missions has the NRO used the AFSCN for over the years between Corona and now?

That information is classified.

44. How do I travel to covert locations if I am acknowledged as NRO at the SECRET collateral level?

Current procedures will continue to be used. OD-4 and Det 7 personnel

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will still travel in civilian clothes, use SATO travel arrangements, ensure their destinations are blurred through good OPSEC, and protect their association with the NRO.

45. What information can I discuss as a result of the 18 Dec launch acknowledgment? Especially related to OD-4?

Those OD-4 and Det 7 personnel supporting the K-13 launch may acknowledge that they supported the launch. Other OD-4 personnel may not acknowledge a relationship with the NRO.

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47. Does downgrading of NRO relationship to OD-4 change the classification of the relationship to ?

No.  remain SECRET BYE or TK. The External Control System (ECS) associations also remain SECRET BYE.

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48. Will OD-4 IRONS be acknowledged as NRO?

No. The relationship of a flight IRON to the NRO will be SECRET collateral. Relationship of the pre-flight or launch IRON with an acknowledged NRO launch will be FOUO.

49. Will IRON based information be classified?

No. Information used to configure the RTSS will remain unclassified.

50. What information can I discuss in the interim period between 18 Dec and 1 Mar when OD-4 will be acknowledged at the SECRET collateral level?

Those OD-4 personnel that supported the 18 Dec launch can acknowledge their 'support' but any information beyond that remains classified. The standard response for queries into on-orbit operations or AFSCN support for on-orbit operations will be "We do not discuss on-orbit or system operations and activities."

### Mission and Functions

Generic (non-revealing) mission and functions statements for NRO launch elements are unclassified.

51. To what office should public inquiries regarding these changes be referred?

All FOIA, media and other public affairs inquiries should be referred to the appropriate USAF or NRO Office of Corporate Communications staff.

52. Is the NRO's security control system affected by these changes?

No, the control system is not affected. However, these changes will

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be reflected in the BYE NRO and collateral AFP classification guides.

### Facilities

The location of the NRO launch facilities is FOUO.

53. Can I tell my family, friends, and neighbors my actual work location?

Upon implementation of this plan, the NRO launch facilities (i.e., Building A-5 at LAAFB, CCAS facilities, VAFB facilities) will be declassified. However, the identity and location of these facilities will be FOUO. Disclosure of actual location of the facilities for other than business purposes, i.e. family, friends, neighbors, etc. should be judged on a need to know basis.

54. What can I divulge with respect to my actual work locations for canvasses, school contact information, publications, etc.?

NRO personnel with school age children or other dependents should indicate the name and address (i.e., building) of their parent organization (e.g. Air Force, CIA, Navy), and their non-secure telephone number at their work location to facilitate prompt notification in case of an emergency. NRO personnel may provide their home address and telephone number and, if requested, their affiliation with their parent agency rather than their NRO affiliation in response to various types of canvasses frequently made to obtain information for school, community, church, social organization, or alumni/alumnae directories, etc.

55. Since the launch facilities will be declassified, can I answer the non-secure phone "NRO"?

There will be no change in procedures concerning how people answer nonsecure telephones. Practice good operational security.

56. When is it appropriate to have unclassified mail sent to me at the NRO launch facilities? How do I do it?

You can have unclassified mail sent to you at the official local facility address. Personnel remaining in classified positions will continue to use their home address or the address of their parent organization (CIA, USAF/SAF/SP) for official unclassified mail.

57. Can launch office personnel tell vendors they are ordering items for the NRO?

Vendor relationships and contracting means will vary depending on the item being ordered and the location of the delivery. Refer questions to your local contracting officer and/or security officer for specific guidance.

58. After 1 March 1997, may I acknowledge the fact that I'm visiting Westfields in DC and if TDY with my spouse, may I take her to lunch in Westfields facility?

Yes.

59. What about other unacknowledged facilities in the DC area?

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Yes.

### Launch Activities

60. What happens if I get a question regarding NRO assets and operations from the media?

Refer all such questions to the appropriate USAF or NRO Office of Corporate Communications staff.

61. Does this declassification effort affect a program office's support to NRO launches?

No. All program support to launch activities will remain compartmented and affiliation with the NRO is protected.

62. What is the classification of NRO flight hardware being stored in the HSF/SSFB?

There is no change in launch integration processing procedures. Hardware movements and storage areas remain SECRET collateral.

63. What is the level of classification for the "fact of" an NRO satellite being currently processed in the SPIF?

There is no change in launch integration processing procedures. The satellite vehicle may be acknowledged as being on-pad after mate to the launch vehicle. Prior to that, hardware movements and processing locations remain SECRET collateral.

64. Will we still have to pay attention to SATRAN's during hardware movements?

Yes. There is no change in launch integration processing procedures.

### Contractor Associations/Relationships

Consistent with NRO and corporate policies, contractor personnel employed on unclassified SMC/CLX, SMC/IMO, or OD-4 contracts may acknowledge their affiliation with the NRO or support to the NRO, to include being known as an "NRO launch support contractor". Acknowledgment will be in a manner/degree consistent with their contracting instrument and as it appears on unclassified NRO organization charts and mission statements. Contractors who are no longer supporting the NRO as of 1 March 1997 are NOT included in this declassification effort.

65. Can SETA personnel working on site acknowledge their NRO affiliation?

Yes, if the work performed is on an open contract.

66. How should contractors handle introductions and questions of affiliation when their work involves assisting their government client in representing the NRO?

SETA contractors who attend meetings outside the NRO and sit alongside the customer may be known, if necessary, as an "NRO launch support contractor" to those at an unclassified meeting.

67. What can I write about my NRO experience on a resume or say in a job

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interview if I am working on an open contract for the NRO?

Reference to NRO experience cannot be written into a resume, but can be mentioned in an interview if asked.

68. Can I admit it to friends/family?

Contractors in unclassified positions may choose to disclose their NRO affiliation to family, close friends, and neighbors provided this acknowledgment does not inadvertently reveal classified or compartmented information and relationships. However, NRO contractor personnel should not acknowledge their NRO affiliation gratuitously in response to casual social or other inquiries, and are urged not to make indiscriminate admissions of NRO affiliation.

69. Can a contractor with an open relationship with the NRO, and with current NRO contracts after 1 March 1997 admit that relationship in an unclassified proposal?

No.

#### Public Affairs

The following questions are excerpted from the Public Affairs plan for the December launch.

70. Is this satellite a [code name or intelligence type] satellite?

We are acknowledging only that this is a reconnaissance satellite, designed, acquired and to be operated by the National Reconnaissance Office. The satellite's specific mission remains classified.

71. What are its orbital elements/technical data?

The launch vehicle's azimuth is 190 degrees; its launch period is from 0830 PST until 1100 PST. All other information related to the satellite is classified.

72. Aren't those elements indicative of a [code name or intelligence type] satellite?

That statement would be speculative. We will not comment on the satellite's specific mission, other than to say it is a reconnaissance satellite.

73. How many NRO satellites have been launched on Titans [III, 34-D, IV]?

145 CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD photo reconnaissance satellites were launched from Vandenberg AFB by Thor boosters between 1960 and 1972. With the exception of CORONA, all past NRO launch operations remain classified.

74. Past launch manifests have listed certain Titan launches as carrying "DoD classified payloads." Were these NRO satellites?

Some were; some were not. The phrase "DoD payload" does not necessarily equate to NRO satellite.

75. Have NRO satellites been launched from/by the Space Shuttle?

Other than CORONA, all previous launch operations remain classified.

76. What other launch vehicles have been used to launch/orbit NRO satel-

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lites?

Past operational matters like this remain classified. As to the future, however, NRO satellites could be launched by any vehicle in the U.S. space launch inventory, to include Titan IV, Atlas II, EELV and any other viable space launch vehicle.

77. Will future NRO launches be unclassified?

Our intent beginning, Friday, 20 December 1996, is to declassify most NRO launches.

78. What is the total number of NRO satellites launched during the organization's existence?

Other than today's launch and the 145 CORONA launches previously mentioned, all other NRO launches remain classified.

79. Have NRO satellites been launched from Cape Canaveral?

Yes, in the past the NRO has launched from the Cape, but previous launches, other than CORONA, remain classified. In the future, it is the NRO's intent to use both Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral.

80. Does this mean that the launch of some NRO satellites could remain classified?

Possibly, but again, the term "classified DoD payload" does not necessarily equate to an NRO satellite.

81. When is the next NRO launch?

We expect to announce future launches ahead of time.

82. Are there any hazardous/nuclear/radioactive components aboard this satellite?

No.

83. Have any animals been used in testing for this satellite?

No. The NRO does not have any animals associated with its programs.

84. Will any other information be declassified regarding NRO launches?

Additional declassification efforts are under consideration and the information will be released as appropriate.

85. Does the NRO have personnel at Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral?

Yes, we deploy personnel in support of launch activities.

86. What are the offices/Who are those people?

This information is classified.

87. Are there NRO contractors at Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral?

We deploy personnel in support of launch activities.

88. Who are those contractors?

As a standard practice, the NRO does not discuss the nature of its contractor/business relationships.

89. How many U.S. Government people, assigned to the NRO, are located at Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral?

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The number of people who support launch activities is classified.

90. How much money has the NRO spent at Vandenberg AFB and/or Cape Canaveral?

The NRO's budget is classified. The NRO has always provided the funds to support its launch operations and infrastructure.

91. How does the NRO arrange for the Air Force to launch its satellites?

Launch vehicle acquisition is arranged through the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) of Air Force Material Command in Los Angeles. Launch operations are arranged through the 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg AFB, CA. Organizational details beyond this remain classified.

92. What contractors build the NRO's satellites?

That information is classified.

93. At what contractor facilities are the satellites manufactured?

That information is classified.

94. How are the satellites transported to the launch bases?

Operational matters like this remain classified.

95. Is SLC-4 East the only launch pad used by the NRO at Vandenberg?

No. The NRO also uses SLC-3 East.

96. What amount did the NRO contribute to SLC-3 East's refurbishment?

The NRO's budget is classified, but it did provide substantial funding to refurbish SLC-3 East.

97. What is the cost of this launch? Will the NRO reimburse the Air Force for that amount?

The NRO budget is classified. The NRO has a cost-sharing arrangement with the Air Force at Vandenberg for the costs associated with launching NRO satellites.

98. Why are the NRO and Air Force acknowledging the fact that the 18 December 1996 Titan launch will be/is/was an NRO satellite?

As part of a continuing review of security requirements, policies and procedures, it was determined by NRO officials that the fact that NRO satellites are launched at both Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral no longer needs to be classified.

99. Who is the official ultimately responsible for the declassification decision?

Keith Hall, Acting and Deputy Director of the NRO.

~~SECRET~~

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