



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

5 December 1997

Dear Special Projects Alumni and Associates:

On 6 December 1997, I announced the declassification of the association between Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Special Projects (SAFSP) and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and certain limited facts about that association. Based on this declassification, for the first time since its inception in 1961, we are now able to acknowledge certain Special Projects' support to the NRO. This note is intended to provide alumni, government, and industry associates with guidance on the limits of this declassification.

The following information outlines the significant aspects of what is now declassified: SAFSP assignments to Los Angeles Air Force Base, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, or the Pentagon. All other locations that support the NRO remain classified. The generic description of your SAFSP role in support of NRO activities is now unclassified, to include involvement in engineering, launch, contracting, security, administration, etc. This description must not reveal information concerning operations, technologies, or methodologies. There is additional, specific guidance for those associated with CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD programs which are the only systems declassified as of this date. All other information concerning SAFSP activities and locations remains classified.

In this Fiftieth Anniversary Year of the Air Force, I am very pleased that we are now able to provide this initial, but long overdue acknowledgement of the contributions by those who have served with SAFSP. If you have any questions please contact our security office at 1-800-306-6990 extension 3636. If you receive requests for interviews or for information from media or historians concerning SAFSP, we strongly encourage you to contact us so we can assist with your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith R. Hall".

Keith R. Hall  
Assistant Secretary of the  
Air Force (Space)