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15 May 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: (U) Declassification of Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Space Systems and Office of Missile and Satellite Systems, National Reconnaissance Office Relationship

(U) This memorandum recommends the declassification of the "fact of" and certain "facts about" the association of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) with Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Space Systems (SAFSS) and its predecessor Office of Missile and Satellite Systems (SAFMSS). This declassification effort furthers NRO compliance with intent of Executive Order 12958 and is in accordance with current NRO classification criteria and risk mitigation measures to protect sensitive and classified information.

~~(c)~~ From 1961 to April 1995, SAFSS and its predecessor SAFMSS was the unclassified designator for the staff element of the NRO and performed staff functions for the Director and Deputy Director of the NRO. Personnel assigned to these offices also provided support to the Secretary, Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Space) on aircraft reconnaissance and space reconnaissance systems. SAFSS Air Force military and civilian personnel and contractors supporting them, have protected the "fact of" their association and assignments with the NRO as BYEMAN information for over 30 years.

(U) The role of the SAFSS/SAFMSS as the Headquarters staff of the NRO can be declassified now with minimal impact on continuing NRO classified elements, operations, and locations as they are not associated with currently classified NRO information. Ample justification exists to declassify the SAFSS and SAFMSS role within the NRO as a result of the gradual phasing out of SAFSS as an organizational assignment mechanism for NRO personnel. Since 1995 there have been no NRO personnel

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CL REASON: 1.5(c)
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assigned to SAFSS. Further, SAFSS has no current organization,
mission, or function within the Air Force Staff structure.

(e) Identification of SAFSS and its personnel as the NRO
Headquarters staff no longer constitutes a risk to NRO
activities. However, a presumption on the part of persons
knowledgeable of SAFSS that all information concerning SAFSS and
its role in the NRO is now declassified presents a certain
element of risk that should be mitigated. Therefore, to reduce
the possibility of inadvertent disclosure of classified NRO
operations or locations, we have constructed a list of
information about SAFSS that is now UNCLASSIFIED (see
attachment). This information on the limits of the
declassification will be made available to personnel
knowledgeable of SAFSS operations, including SAFSS alumni
(military, civilian, and contractors).

(U) Recommend the declassification of the role of SAFSS as
the staff element of the NRO as a normal progression of NRO
declassification efforts. Also, request your signature on the
attached letter to SAFSS alumni and associates.

Kenneth W. Renshaw
Director of Security

Attachment

APPROVED:

187

Keith R. Hall
Director, National Reconnaissance Office

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The following "facts about" the association of SAFSS and the National Reconnaissance Office are proposed as unclassified:

- The association between the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Space Systems (SAFSS) and its predecessor, the Air Force Office of Missile and Satellite Systems (SAFMSS).
- Fact that SAFSS and its predecessor SAFMSS was the staff element of the NRO and performed staff functions for the Director and Deputy Director of the NRO.
- Fact that personnel assigned to SAFSS and SAFMSS provided support to the Secretary, Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Space) on aircraft reconnaissance and space matters.
- Identities of all former SAFSS and SAFMSS Directors.
- Identification of main organizational elements of SAFSS and SAFMSS, e.g., SS-1, SS-2, etc.
- Identities of key SAFSS and SAFMSS personnel assigned to the major staff offices and elements of SAFSS and its predecessor SAFMSS, such as chiefs of the key divisions, comptroller, technical advisor, etc.
- Fact of individual assignment to SAFSS and SAFMSS (from 1961 to April 1995) including unclassified duty and staff title, generic description duties (i.e. engineering, technology, comptroller, security, administration, etc.), and period of performance.
- Fact of and individual's assignment to SAFSS and SAFMSS at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, and The Pentagon. These are the only locations to be declassified as associated with SAFSS and SAFMSS.
- General association of SAFSS with CORONA, ARGON, LANYARD, and GRAB.

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- General description of SAFSS operations and support functions not associated with currently classified NRO information.

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