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Security Note

November 18, 2002

SUBJECT (U) Declassification of KH-7 Surveillance System Imagery and KH-9 Mapping System Imagery

(U) Background: The Director of Central Intelligence authorized the declassification of almost the entire film record of the KH-7 surveillance camera system and the KH-9 mapping camera system. On 20 September 2002 the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) sponsored the "Historical Imagery Declassification Conference" and transferred the film record to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for release to the public.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(U) Purpose: The purpose of this note is to advise NRO [Redacted] points of contact about the conference, the information officially released, and the information mentioned but not officially released. Recommend further dissemination and changes to [Redacted] security guides as appropriate.

(b)(3)

(U) Contact: Questions may be directed to the NRO point of contact [Redacted] of the Office of Policy, [Redacted] via [Redacted] appropriate channels. Local open phone: [Redacted]

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(U) Attachment: FACT SHEET: KH-7 Surveillance System & KH-9 Mapping System.

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FACT SHEET

(U) KH-7 Surveillance System and KH-9 Mapping System

(U) Information Officially Released:

(U) KH-7 Surveillance Camera System:

The high-resolution KH-7 surveillance satellite imaging camera system operated from July 1963 to June 1967, during which it monitored key targets such as ICBM complexes, radar systems, and other areas of interest. Mission durations were of one to eight days and each mission returned a single bucket of film. This system also provided the key cartographic information from which the Department of Defense produced accurate, large-scale (1:50,000) maps.

The KH-7 camera returned 19,000 frames totaling 43,000 linear feet of imagery on 34 of 38 missions (mission numbers 4001 – 4038). Thirty of the missions provided imagery that was usable for analysis. The camera also returned some color imagery from missions 4024 and 4030. The KH-7 camera was capable of imaging areas 12 nm wide ranging from five nm to 400 nm long. The initial best ground resolution was approximately 1.2 meters (4 feet) and by 1966 improved to approximately 0.6 meters (2 feet).

(U) KH-9 Mapping Camera System:

The low-resolution KH-9 frame/mapping camera system was devoted exclusively to gathering information for mapping, charting, and geodesy and collected imagery from March 1973 to October 1980. Geodetic data, including precise geopositioning, elevation, and other information provided the DoD with accurate point locations for air, sea, and ground operations. The KH-9 provided Level 1 Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED) and other data to make 1:200,000 scale maps.

The KH-9 mapping camera returned film in a single bucket; operated on 12 missions (mission numbers 1205 – 1216) with mission durations of 42 to 119 days; and acquired a total ground coverage of approximately 104 million square nautical miles. Each frame of KH-9 mapping imagery covered a ground “footprint” of approximately

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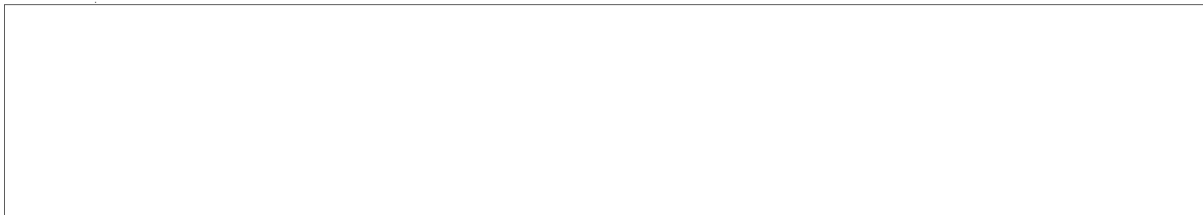
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70nm by 140 nm with some stereo and some trilap coverage of the ground area. Additionally, the "fact of" mission numbers 1201-1204 and 1217-1220 were officially released as KH-9 missions. However, the imagery from these missions was not declassified, nor was any system information associated with them.

(U) KH-7 & KH-9 Mapping System Coverage

Together, these two systems acquired approximately 50,000 images on approximately 93,000 linear feet of film.

(Ø) Information Not Officially Released:



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