The Recon - April 2003

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(U) DNRO charts course for NRO's future

(U) On May 28, DNRO Peter B. Teets hosted a Town Hall Meeting in which he revealed NRO's way ahead. The plan, constructed by NRO seniors, represents NRO's Architectural Vision and Investment Strategy. It outlines the various NRO programs to be pursued between now and 2020. "I want to emphasize that this plan is not something cast in concrete," said the DNRO, who wanted NRO personnel to understand the rationale and thinking behind putting the plan forth.

(U) In addition to establishing goals, the NRO's Architectural Vision and Investment Strategy is expected to help the DNRO justify current and future budgets before Congress. According to the DNRO, Congress is doing some major "machinations" with the FY04 budget due to serious worries. "I think I did a reasonable job explaining why the FY04 budget was set up as it was and how it leads us to a future," said Mr. Teets, who used this experience as yet another good reason to have a plan and vision for the future, particularly as the FY06 Intelligence Program Objective Memorandum (IPOM) is constructed.

(U) Although the NRO Architectural Vision and Investment Strategy has been and will continue to be discussed internally, there are plans to share this information with the Intelligence Community (IC) and mission partners. According to the DNRO, the plan has already been shared with NIMA and, to a lesser extent, NSA. "It's time to push this forward to the greater community and the Pentagon," said Mr. Teets.

(U) The DNRO then outlined the following NRO Architectural Vision and Investment Strategy for the directorates:

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To view the imagery taken by the DNRO, see the ninth slide from the last DNRO Town Hall meeting on Apr. 30, 2003. The slides can be found by clicking on Director/Town Hall Briefings/Apr. 30, 2003.

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To establish a baseline for the FY05 IPOM, we are budgeting for an Optical Relay Comm Architecture (ORCA) constellation," said Mr. Teets of the space-based relay system that is being acquired. COMM Director, RADM Rand Fisher, is in the process of examining how ORCA will be part of the transformational communication system architecture and how it will interface with DoD military satellite communication architecture, which also has laser communication ability.
(U) According to Mr. Teets, AS&T will support next generation architectures such as GEO, HEO and LEO, through technical development and bringing on line the necessary technology to enable the next generation architecture. "I see AS&T's charter as developing new technology, pushing them forward, doing important demonstrations," said Mr. Teets.

(U) "One of the biggest challenges we have as an organization is to try to find the proper balance between investing in infrastructure systems that the IC and war fighter have grown accustomed to having at their disposal, while simultaneously having enough resources left over to invest in important new technology developments," said Mr. Teets, who pointed to the Director's Innovation Initiative as a good example of how the problem should be tackled.

(U) "I would like to see us spend an increasing percentage of NRO budget on AS&T and we will try to do exactly that. It is a daunting challenge because we're spending more now than ever. It is unknown how much longer increasing budgets will come in our direction. I hope it's for a long time because I am convinced that NRO systems will help us win the war on terrorism," said the DNRO.
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(U) Request a video copy of DNRO Town Hall

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