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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

15 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY) *S*

SUBJECT: Implementation of Executive Order 12036

Dan:

In response to your memo of March 9th regarding the redrafting of DOD Directives and Instructions, I am designating Mr. Jimmie D. Hill to work with your office on this matter. I am also enclosing a draft DOD Directive on the NRO that has been rewritten to be consistent with the new Executive Order.

Please let me know how I can help. With best regards,

*Haus*

Hans Mark

Attachment

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CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] EXEMPT FROM  
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE-  
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

REFERENCES (a): DoD Directive TS 5105.23, subject as above, dated ~~June-14, 1962~~ March 27, 1964 (hereby cancelled)

(b): Executive Order 12036 "United States Intelligence Activities," January 24, 1978

I. GENERAL

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense and the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, including the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, a ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office is hereby established as an operating agency of the Department of Defense, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of Defense.


II. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office will be organized separately within the Department of Defense under a ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, appointed by the Secretary of Defense. The Director will be responsible for consolidation of all Department of Defense satellite and-air-vehicle-overflight projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping photography and electronic signal collection into a single program, defined as the ~~(TS)~~

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National Reconnaissance Program, and for the complete management and conduct of this Program in accordance with policy guidance and decisions of the Secretary of Defense.


**III. RELATIONSHIPS**

- A. In carrying out his responsibilities for the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office shall:
1. Keep the *Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Communications, Command, Control and Intelligence)* and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) personally informed on a regular basis on the status of projects of the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program.
  2. Similarly inform other Department of Defense personnel as he may determine necessary in the course of carrying out specific project matters.
  3. Establish appropriate interfaces between the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office and the United States-Intelligence-Board, *National Foreign Intelligence Board*, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency.

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4. Where appropriate, make use of qualified personnel of services and agencies of the Department of Defense as full-time members of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
- B. Officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military departments, and other DoD agencies shall provide support within their respective fields of responsibility, to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office as may be necessary for the Director to carry out his assigned responsibilities and functions. Streamlined management procedures will be utilized whereby individual project directors will report directly to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office will be given support as required from normal staff elements of the military departments and agencies concerned, although these staff elements will not participate in these project matters except as he specifically requests, and these projects will not be subject to normal Department of Defense staff review.

IV. AUTHORITIES

- A. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office, in connection with his assigned responsibilities for the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office and the ~~(TS)~~ National

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Reconnaissance Program, is hereby specifically delegated authority to:

1. Organize, staff, and supervise the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
2. Establish, manage and conduct the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program.
3. Assist the Secretary of Defense in the supervision of aircraft, drone and satellite reconnaissance, mapping and geodesy matters, including both photographic and electronic signal projects, and be his direct representative on these matters both within and outside the Department of Defense.
4. Review all Department of Defense budget requests and expenditures for any items falling within the definition of the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, including studies and preliminary research and development of components and techniques to support such existing or future projects.

B. Other authorities specifically delegated to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office by the Secretary of Defense will be referenced in numbered enclosures to this directive.

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V. PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

All projects falling within the definition of the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program are assigned to that program and will be managed as outlined herein unless specific exception is made by the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. Announcements of any such exceptions will be made by numbered enclosures to this directive.

VI. SECURITY

- A. The ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office will establish the security procedures to be followed for all matters of the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program, including suitable unclassified names and functions to protect all elements of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office.
- B. All communications pertaining to matters under the ~~(TS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program will be subject to special systems of security control under the cognizance of the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, except in those instances specifically exempted by either ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office or the Secretary of Defense.
- C. With the single exception of this directive, no mention will be made of the following titles or their abbreviations in any document which is not

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controlled under the special security control system(s) referred to in B above: ~~(PS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program; ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office. Where absolutely necessary to refer to the ~~(PS)~~ National Reconnaissance Program in communications not controlled under the prescribed special security systems, such reference will be made by use of the terminology: ~~"Matters-under-the-purview-of-DoD-PS-5105-23."~~ "Offices for the collection of specialized intelligence through reconnaissance programs."

**VII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Directive is effective upon publication.


**VIII. CANCELLATION**

Reference (a) is hereby cancelled.

Deputy Secretary of Defense

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