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27 April 77

THE ROLE OF THE DNRO

By a DOD/CIA Agreement and DOD Directive, the DNRO is responsible for the day-to-day management and conduct of the NRP. The NRP is based upon a single charter which makes its mission unambiguous. The NRO is a separate operating agency of the DOD and can make use of DOD services. The DNRO's role in the NRP can be considered analogous to that of a corporate president of a company.

Developing the corporation analogy, the DNRO responds to a "board of directors level" composed of three parts. In the first part, the DNRO looks to the SecDef for policy guidance and decisions since the SecDef is the NRP executive agent. In the second part, the DCI, through the NFIB mechanism, provides to the DNRO national requirements which NRP space systems should fulfill. And third, the DNRO receives program resource allocation directives from the PRC(I) as well as direction as to the pace to be maintained regarding various projects within the NRP.

The DNRO has an interagency staff and his own Comptroller and three program offices to aid him. His line organizations (in the corporation analogy--and military sense--too) report directly to him. The variety of managerial tools that he has to fulfill his responsibilities are unique and essential (streamlined management) in order for the NRP to continue to fulfill its role effectively and efficiently.

Examples of day-to-day type responsibilities of the DNRO are listed below. The daily fulfillment of many of these responsibilities may be delegated by the DNRO to the DDNRO.

- Be accessible to NRP Program Directors (streamlined management concept) and provide direction on programmatic issues and policy.
- Defend the NRP before the Congress.
- Interface with members of the Intelligence Community on NRP programmatic requirements and related issues.
- This interface encompasses a broad spectrum of subjects, from decisions on systems to evaluation of Intelligence Community reorganization proposals.

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-- Primary interface of the DNRO is with Secretaries Brown and Duncan, Adm Turner (DCI), Mr. Aaron (NSC), Mr. Habib (State) and Dr. Fletcher (NASA).

-- Additionally, the DNRO has worked closely with Dr. Perry (DDR&E), Adm Murphy (IC Staff), Dr. Lovelace (NASA), Mr. Warnke (ACDA), General Sitton (JCS) and Dr. Dinneen (ASD(C3I)).

- Present NRP proposed system options and funding requirements to the PRC(I).

- Provides unambiguous guidance and direction to the builders and operators of reconnaissance satellite systems.

- Acts as a buffer between the dedicated builder/operators on the one hand, and the disparate groups--be they the intelligence customers requirements generators, advanced system planners, or procurement/budget experts--on the other, whose views and contributions, while important, would tend to bias the system building/operating environment and thereby detract from optimum mission accomplishment.

- Calls upon and receives support and assistance for the NRP from DOD agencies.

- Keeps senior officials with a clear interest in the NRP abreast of significant activities.

- Reviews all source selection findings and recommendations.

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