

NRO selects 2004 class of Pioneers

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) has selected its Pioneer Class of 2004 – four people who made significant and lasting contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. The four selectees are Mr. Sam Araki, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Harvey Cohen, Mr. Robert Kaemmerer, and Mr. James McAnally.

The new pioneers will be honored in a ceremony at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at NRO headquarters where plaques will be permanently displayed in their honor. The pioneers were selected by Under Secretary of the Air Force and NRO Director Peter Teets based on recommendations from a special selection board, and will join 57 pioneers selected over the past four years.

Mr. Araki pioneered at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company the development of the Agena spacecraft, the world's first stabilized platform for space. His contributions resulted in a space platform that the NRO used during the 1960s for a majority of its space-based SIGINT and IMINT systems, most notably for the highly successful Corona system. His career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1958-2002.

Lt. Col. Cohen pioneered for Program A from 1964 to 1984 innovative NRO security practices and procedures that were instrumental in the success of Program A's Cold War Space Systems. These innovative information safeguard procedures, and their associated policy framework, provided the essential security to protect sensitive reconnaissance technology. His career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1962-2000.

Mr. Kaemmerer pioneered at TRW the development of the most sophisticated family of intelligence satellite systems of the Cold War. His contributions continued to be reflected in nearly every facet of certain NRO geo-synchronous and highly-elliptical orbit systems developed during the early 21st Century. His career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1966 to the present.

Mr. McAnally pioneered at Martin Marietta development of a new satellite reconnaissance system capable of producing imagery essential for a wide range of operations. This system provided unique and critical intelligence information during the Cold War and into the Global War on Terrorism. His career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1976-1997.

News media wishing to attend the event must contact the NRO Office of Corporate Communications at (703) 808-1015 or (703) 808-1746 and must be at the NRO Visitor's Center by 1:30 p.m. Oct. 13.