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Attachment 1

MISSION OF THE NRO

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), a joint endeavor between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), was established in the early 1960s to consolidate all United States (US) satellite and assigned aircraft reconnaissance activities. It functions under Executive Order 12333 of December 4, 1981, and other laws, regulations, and directives.

The mission of the NRO is to ensure that the US has the technology and overhead assets needed to acquire superior world-wide intelligence. This intelligence is required to support functions such as monitoring of arms control agreements, indications and warning, and the planning for, and conduct of, military operations. To accomplish its mission, the NRO conducts research and development, acquires and operates overhead systems for the collection of data.

In response to guidance and direction from the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, the NRO manages the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), the single US program for the collection of foreign intelligence from satellite and assigned aircraft assets. The NRO responds to tasking from all authorized users through appropriate elements of the Intelligence Community.

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