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1973 Federal Mapping Task Force Report

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1. Background: OMB created a Federal Mapping Task Force on Mapping, Charting, Geodesy and Surveying in April 1972 to study the civilian mapping community and develop plans for improving productivity and responsiveness, while keeping costs down. The Task Force has been chaired by an OMB staff member [redacted] [redacted] with extensive experience in photographic reconnaissance matters. The remainder of the Task Force consists of one representative--a specialist--each from Defense, Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce with [redacted] of CIA's OBGI as consultant on satellite mapping security implications and constraints. This nucleus has been supported by a large full-time staff of over 45 leading map specialists who were organized into eight working groups. A total of 39 federal agencies have been identified as being directly engaged in mapping activities. The report sizes the civil mapping effort as involving a direct annual cost of \$305 million and involving nearly 13,000 man-years of effort. Only about one-third of this effort is located in the "traditional" mapping organizations such as the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition to these direct expenditures, other mapping related activities involve another \$142 million annually and over 4,400 people.

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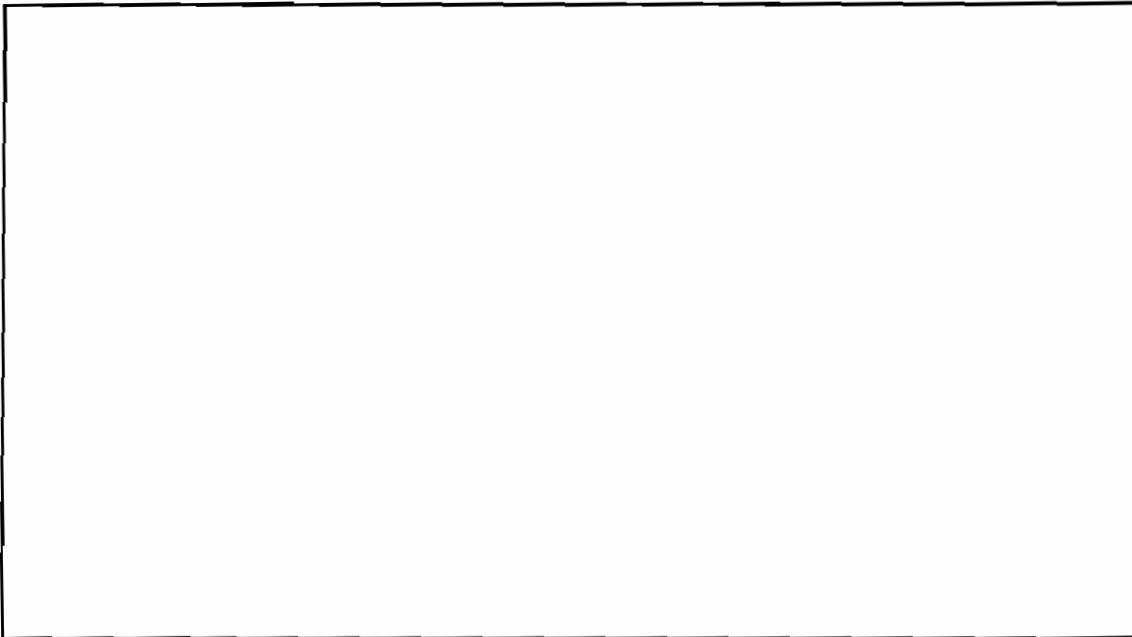
2. The inadequate responsiveness by the traditional mapping agencies to standing domestic requirements and important new programs related to urban renewal, pollution control, antipoverty, agriculture, mass transit, natural disaster assessment, and environmental conservation matters has resulted in a proliferation of expensive and duplicatory mapping activities by additional agencies to fill the gaps.

Task Force Findings

3. The two basic themes stressed by the Task Force report are the needs for increased centralization of civilian mapping organization and activities, and increased utilization of satellite photography and related advanced technology.

4. The report recommends a major reorganization and centralization of the civilian mapping effort in the form of a Federal Survey Administration. This new civil mapping agency would be parallel to the recently established Defense Mapping Agency.

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6. The Task Force report presses for an expanded utilization of T-KH materials to produce unclassified map products of U.S. areas. Thus, the specific security policy issues that will be raised by the work of the Task Force center around how T-KH materials can be increasingly applied to facilitate the production of civilian maps of the U.S. at the unclassified level.

7. Up to the present time, the only systematic effort to use T-KH satellite photography for mapping the U.S. has been done by the U.S. Geological Survey at its T-KH facility at Reston, Virginia. This organization is now well along toward the objective of updating the unclassified map sheets that cover the U.S. at a scale of 1:250,000 and has started to update larger-scale sheets that cover small areas at 1:24,000. The Geological Survey

experience with satellite photography parallels that of the DoD mappers--the T-KH sources have reduced the time and direct costs of map revision. It is almost certain that, with good planning and reorganization, their experience and findings could be applied to the other mapping programs now carried out in the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others.

8. The Task Force recommends that a civilian Mapping and Resource Requirements Committee be established to assemble, review, coordinate, and validate photographic requirements of all civilian agencies and to forward them to COMIREX for implementation by the reconnaissance satellite systems. The functions performed by such a requirements committee would be similar to those being considered by the NSC staff review of the disposition of the ARGO Steering Committee. A Civil Applications Panel, as now proposed for a follow-up to ARGO, would be able to handle the civil mapping requirements. It may be efficient, however, also to have some appropriate civil representation to the present Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy Working Group of COMIREX which handles the defense mapping needs, because of the close relationship between many elements in the civil and defense mapping communities.

9. The Task Force report is recommending that OMB initiate a review of security policy regarding classified satellite photography of the U.S. to assess the risk, if any, to the NRP of the following actions:

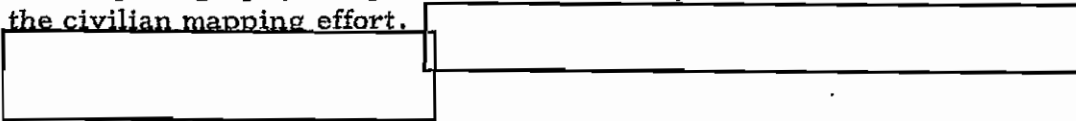
- a. Declassification of some reconnaissance satellite photography for offset-printed orthophoto products.
- b. Controlled use of reconnaissance satellite photographs for identification of geodetic markers in the field.
- c. Declassification of reconnaissance satellite photographs for gradual controlled release, sanitized and non-attributed, to the public domain.

d. Depending on the results of the review, establish a "Joint Security and Declassification Working Group" to implement actions pursuant to the new policy guidance.

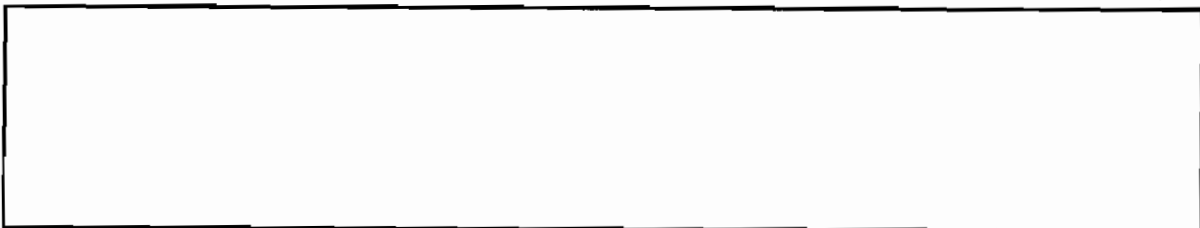
Some of these points would be covered by the decontrol proposals that are now under review with the USIB.

Evaluation and Implications

10. There is general agreement with the Task Force conclusion that the KH photography can provide the necessary technical base for modernizing the civilian mapping effort.



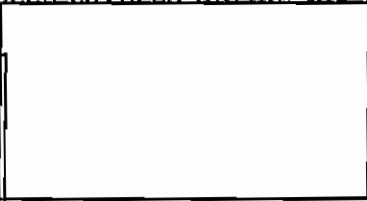
11. Up to the present, satellite materials have not been used by civil components to any major degree. This stems in part from the initial conscious insulation of intelligence systems from the public domain-- although, even after the ARGO efforts, the civilian community has failed to tap the full potential of T-KH photography. The existing constraints of compartmented security have also contributed, of course, but perhaps even more important has been the general lack of civil agency initiative and far-sightedness. The activities of the Federal Mapping Task Force have energized a broad re-evaluation of these aspects.



13. From the OMB point of view, the stakes are considerably greater than either the immediate direct production savings or the eventual increase in map-making responsiveness. Success in using T-KH satellite capabilities

to meet a wide range of civilian mapping needs would provide a basis for re-evaluating the rationale of the NASA earth resources programs that are duplicating some of the ground that has already been covered during the development of the T-KH photographic systems.

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