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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

TO DIRNSA	EXREG CONTROL NUMBER 85926	KCC CONTROL NUMBER 23340
THRU DDIR	DSEC	ACTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION
SUBJECT (S//BYE) POPPY Declassification		EXREG SUSPENSE KCC SUSPENSE ELEMENT SUSPENSE

DISTRIBUTION (1-23-2003)
DSEC, DC, DC09, DC3, DC32, DC321, DC322, DC3221, DC323, DC63, SID, OGC

SUMMARY

PURPOSE:

- (S//BYE) To obtain DIRNSA approval for declassification of the fact of the POPPY ELINT satellite program.
- (S//BYE) To obtain DIRNSA approval for public recognition of key NSA POPPY participants (Tab A) who contributed to the nation's security through their participation in the POPPY program.
- (S//BYE) To obtain DIRNSA approval for release of selected information about the POPPY program, contained in the brochure at Tab B and in the museum display at Tab C.

BACKGROUND: (S//BYE) In September 1997, DIRNSA and the Director, National Reconnaissance Office (DNRO) agreed to look into the possibility of declassification of the GRAB/DYNO ELINT reconnaissance satellite program and its successor, POPPY. An interagency Integrated Process Team (IPT), consisting of members from NSA, NRO, NRL, CIA, and Navy was established to work the declassification process. NSA representatives from the Office of Policy, the SIGINT Directorate, the Center for Cryptologic History, Public Affairs, and General Counsel participated in the IPT. The GRAB/DYNO program (1958-1962) was declassified at a ceremony during the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) 75th Silver Jubilee in June 1998; the focus is now on the POPPY program (1958-1977). The correspondence between DIRNSA and DNRO on this issue is at Tab D. The brochure that was released in conjunction with the GRAB declassification is at Tab E.

DISCUSSION: (U//FOUO) The IPT members believe that the information proposed for release in the brochure and museum display would not cause damage to national security, and would not compromise current or future national ELINT reconnaissance systems. A detailed technical risk assessment and a foreign denial and deception assessment were conducted, and extensive multi-agency coordination has been effected. The Foreign Denial and Deception Committee (FDDC) and the National SIGINT Committee (SIGCOM) have previously reviewed the material proposed for declassification and their concerns have been accommodated.

(S//BYE) The POPPY release intends to acknowledge the fact of ELINT targeting of the Soviet Navy by POPPY satellites through 1977. The declassification of this fact was approved by the SIGINT Directorate (then the Directorate of Operations) in March 2000. The fact of the association of NSA with Hybla Valley, Virginia; [redacted] and Adak, Alaska in conjunction with the POPPY program were declassified by the Director of Policy in January 2003. No other ground station locations will be declassified.

(S//BYE) With the exception of a news release to be issued after the ceremony, no materials will be created for public release in support of the initiative other than the brochure and museum display. Additionally, there will not

COORDINATION/APPROVAL

OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
CoS	[Signature] 2/3/02	3825	DCS	[Signature] 3/1/03	963-3701
DC3	[Signature]	9633083			
PAO	3 Mar 03	963-5825			
DCS	10 Mar 03	5604			
DCS	6 Mar 03	3206			

ORIGINATOR	ORG. DC3221	PHONE (Secure) 963-4582	DATE PREPARED 27 January 2003
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FORM A6796 REV NOV 95
(Supersedes A6796 FEB 84 which is obsolete)
NSN: 7540-FM-001-5465

Derived From: NSACSSM 123-2, dated 24 February 1998
and NCG 5.1 dated 1 May 2000
Declassify On: X1

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be a body of documents released as a result of facts being declassified to support this initiative. Each agency involved in this initiative will use its own POPPY classification guidance to respond, under standard procedures, to release requests under the Automatic Declassification and Mandatory Declassification Review provisions of Executive Order 12958, as well as under the Freedom of Information Act.

~~(S//BYE)~~ The Center for Cryptologic History worked with the SIGINT Directorate to compile a list of NSA affiliates associated with the POPPY program. The Director of Policy selected from that list a group of individuals to be recognized. The names of these individuals and a brief description of their contributions to the program are at Tab A. Work will continue to identify additional NSA affiliates associated with the program worthy of recognition. A recognition ceremony tentatively will be held at NRO. POPPY pioneers, family, and cleared members of the Intelligence Community will attend.

~~(U//FOUO)~~ The SIGINT Directorate and General Counsel both raised concerns with items in the brochure and the museum display when this SPF was initially circulated during Summer 2002. Changes were subsequently made to the brochure and display, and the SID's and OGC's concerns have been accommodated. The June 2002 SPF is attached at Tab G.

~~(S//BYE)~~ A similar package on POPPY has also been coordinated with the NRO, CIA, and the Navy. Once NSA has concurred, the IPT will brief the National SIGINT Committee and the FDDC. The National SIGINT Committee will then forward a letter to the DCI (see draft at Tab F) asking for approval to release.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(U) That you concur with the following proposals:

1. ~~(S//BYE)~~ Declassification of the fact of the POPPY ELINT satellite program.

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2. ~~(S//BYE)~~ Recognition of key NSA POPPY participants (Tab A) who contributed to the nation's security through their participation in the POPPY program.

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3. ~~(S//BYE)~~ Release of selected information about the POPPY program contained in the brochure at Tab B and in the museum display at Tab C.

DIRNSA Concur DIRNSA Non-Concur

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DNI

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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY?
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR, NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND
COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
COMMANDER, NAVAL SECURITY GROUP
COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE
CENTER
COMMANDER, STRATEGIC COMMAND

SUBJECT: Declassification of POPPY Electronic Intelligence Reconnaissance Satellite Program (1962-1977)

REFERENCE: National SIGINT Committee Memorandum for DCI (same subject), approved 11 May 2004

(Ten 5)

1. By the reference document, the Director of Central Intelligence approved declassification of the POPPY Program and declassification of selected information about the program. Initial public release will feature a brochure and museum display, including recognition of key contributors to the POPPY Program. Accordingly, the following ceremonies have been planned:

a. The Director, National Reconnaissance Office will host a POPPY Recognition Event at the National Reconnaissance Office on 12 September 2005.

b. The Director, National Security Agency will host an unveiling of the POPPY museum display at the National Cryptologic Museum on 13 September 2005.

2. Based on the historical records of the POPPY Program and the predecessor GRAB Program (declassified June 1998), the joint (NRO/NSA/Navy/CIA) POPPY Declassification Integrated Process Team (IPT) has nominated 159 key contributors. These individuals are listed in the attachment, ordered alphabetically under each participating parent organization. Particular contributions of each individual are listed for your information. The IPT will nominate others for recognition upon your identification of those persons prior to the scheduled events.


Chairman, POPPY Declassification IPT

Attachment:
Key Contributors to the GRAB and POPPY Programs