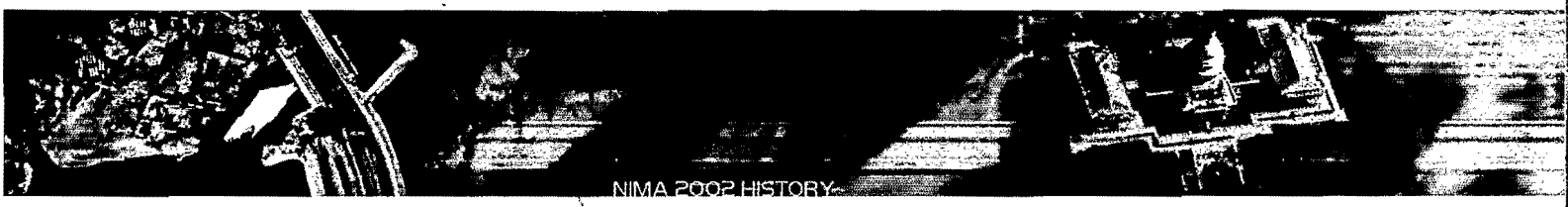
NIMA

UMUC

Historical Imagery Declassification Conference



America's Eyes:

What We Were Seeing

NIMA

September 20, 2002

A Welcome from the Director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency:

I am pleased to welcome you to our Historic Imagery Declassification Conference, *America's Eyes: What We Were Seeing*. By joining us today, you will be eyewitness to a unique moment in the history of U.S. intelligence.

Our conference is a culmination of a five-year effort by NIMA to declassify and release to the public, a variety of historical information about our nation's intelligence systems. Today marks the official transfer of KH-7 and KH-9 mapping imagery to the National Archives and Records Administration. Though this has been a NIMA-led effort, I would like to acknowledge the important roles played by other Intelligence, Department of Defense, and civil organizations.

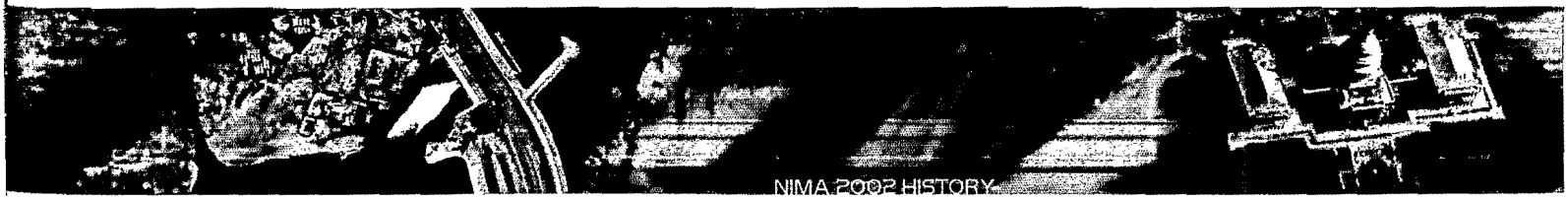
Our goals today are to inform the public so they will know how their national security tax dollars have been spent, educate our young people so they will know about their nation's history, and give our scientists and researchers a tool that will help them understand—and find solutions to—the pressing issues of our day.

I must pay tribute to former Senator J. Robert Kerrey, without whom this conference would not have been possible. The "Imagery for Citizens" initiative that he spearheaded as a Senator provided NIMA with the funding for our declassification program. His commitment to strengthening national security and his leadership to promoting government transparency is unparalleled.

Finally, I would like to thank the University of Maryland University College and its President, Dr. Gerald Heeger, for being NIMA's co-sponsor for this conference.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. CLAPPER, JR.
Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret.)
Director



UMUC

September 20, 2002

A Welcome from the President of University of Maryland University College:

Welcome to the Inn and Conference Center of University of Maryland University College (UMUC). I am delighted that you have come here to attend *America's Eyes: What We Were Seeing*. The University is pleased to be working with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) in co-sponsoring this conference.

With a primary mission of providing education to adults in Maryland, the University has been operating in Adelphi for 55 years. It expanded into military education with a contract to teach in Europe in 1949, and followed that with a similar contract for Asia in 1956. UMUC used its expertise in distance education to begin online teaching on the Web in the early 1990s.

It is particularly fitting for this conference to be held here since the University, like the images being discussed, has a global reach. Moreover, our global nature is twofold: we teach courses to service members in nearly 40 countries overseas, and our online courses are available anywhere in the world via the Internet.

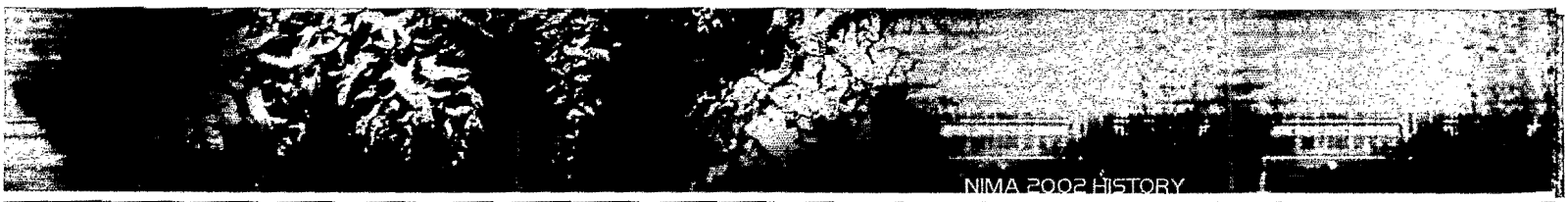
UMUC also offers courses and degrees in the area of network security or information assurance. Recently, the National Security Agency designated UMUC as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. This is yet another reason for the University to be a part of this conference.

I hope that you will find the presentations and accommodations at the conference most pleasant, and that you enjoy your time at the University.

Sincerely,

Gerald A Heeger

Gerald A. Heeger, Ph.D.
President



Agenda

SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

7:00–8:30	Registration
8:30–8:45	Introduction Mr. Patrick Warfle, Director, Office of Corporate Relations, National Imagery and Mapping Agency
8:45–9:00	Welcome and Opening Address Gerald Heeger, Ph.D., President, University of Maryland University College
9:00–9:15	Introductory Remarks Mr. Lawrence Kindsvater, Executive Director for Intelligence Community Affairs, Central Intelligence Agency
9:15–9:45	Keynote Address: Reflections on the Significance of the Day The Honorable J. Robert Kerrey, President, New School University
9:45–10:00	Presentation and Reception of Imagery Lieutenant General James R. Clapper, Jr., USAF (Ret.), Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency
10:00–10:15	Michael J. Kurtz, Ph.D., Assistant Archivist for Records Services, National Archives and Records Administration
10:15–10:30	Break
10:30–11:00	Utility/Benefits of Declassified Images—Academic Perspective Dr. John Newman, Professor of History, University of Maryland University College
11:00–11:30	Utility/Benefits of Declassified Images—Scientific Perspective Mary E. Clutter, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Biological Sciences, National Science Foundation
11:30–12:30	Lunch
12:30–2:00	PANEL I: Making This Happen Mr. Deane J. Allen, Chief Historian, Defense Intelligence Agency
2:00–2:20	Break
2:20–3:50	PANEL II: Imagery and Today's Scholarship Mr. Michael Warner, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Historian, Central Intelligence Agency
3:50–4:00	Closing Remarks Martin K. Gordon, Ph.D., Chief Historian, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

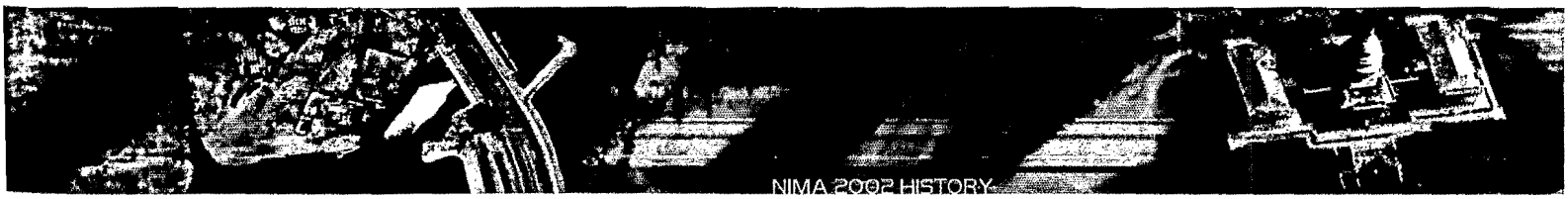


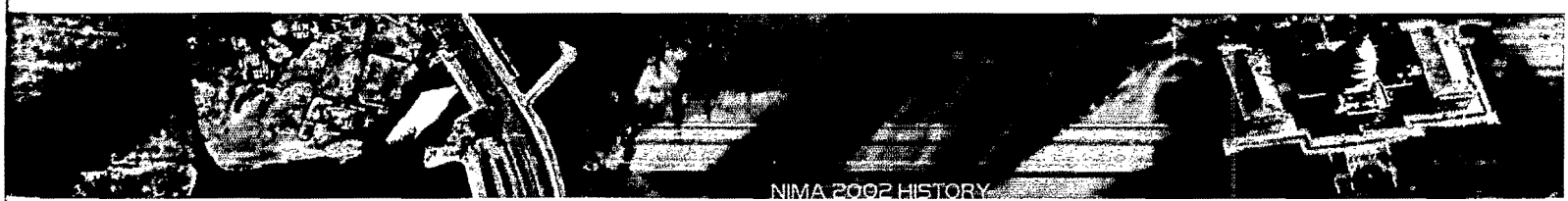
Table of Contents

America's Eyes: What We Were Seeing

The Need for Overhead Reconnaissance Systems

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Soviet detonation of an atom bomb in 1949, the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1951, and the Soviet hydrogen bomb test in 1953, motivated the United States to acquire imagery intelligence to analyze potential threats and actions before they occurred. By 1956, the U.S. was overflying critical intelligence targets with the U-2 aircraft. The successful launch of a U.S. satellite in January 1958, paved the way for the first imaging satellite program. President Eisenhower approved the development of the first imaging satellite reconnaissance program, called CORONA, in February 1958.

The CORONA program comprised a series of satellites, designed to focus on geographic areas of interest. Operating under the Keyhole (KH) program, these satellites carried film capsules, known as "buckets." After intelligence targets were photographed and the capsule was full of exposed film, the satellite was commanded to eject the bucket. Once the satellite jettisoned the bucket, sending it back to earth, specialized recovery aircraft retrieved it in mid-air over the Pacific Ocean. The film was then processed, analyzed and distributed for intelligence or mapping purposes.



A Pivotal Year: 1960

1960 proved to be a pivotal year in U.S. efforts to acquire space-based imagery intelligence over denied areas. The shoot-down of a United States U-2 spy plane in May 1960 ended four years of high-resolution aerial surveillance over the Soviet Union. The CORONA satellite imaging reconnaissance program (KH-1) achieved its first successful launch and recovery in August 1960. Its first mission returned more imagery intelligence of the Soviet Union than the combined 24 successful U-2 missions. However, the ground resolution of KH-1 imagery was insufficient to thoroughly analyze high priority targets such as intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) sites.

That same year, the Satellite Intelligence Requirements Committee (SIRC), established by Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) Allen W. Dulles, identified the need for high-resolution coverage of key intelligence targets. The requirements defined by the SIRC were, in priority order:

1. Locate suspected ICBMs in the Soviet Union
2. Obtain more descriptive information on ICBMs at 5-foot resolution
3. Provide an imagery resolution capable of supplying technical characteristics of the highest priority targets.

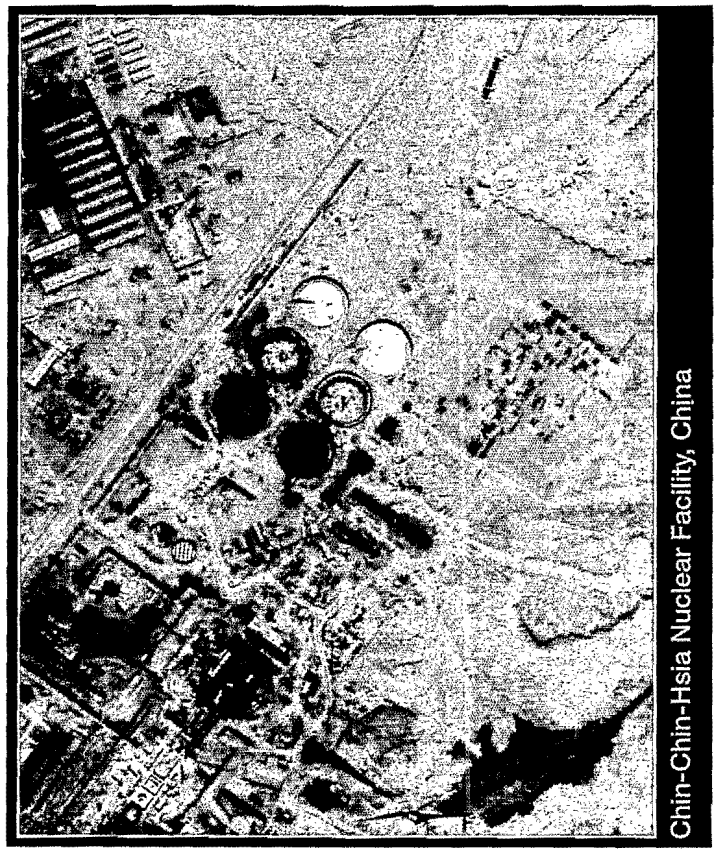
Subsequent improvements to the CORONA satellite system vehicles were designated KH-2, KH-3, KH-4A and KH-4B. However, the requirements for higher resolution imagery to satisfy the SIRC guidance proved to be the catalyst for developing a new, higher-resolution imaging system, the KH-7. This effort culminated in the July 1963 launch of the first KH-7 satellite, Mission 4001.

KH-7 Surveillance Imaging System

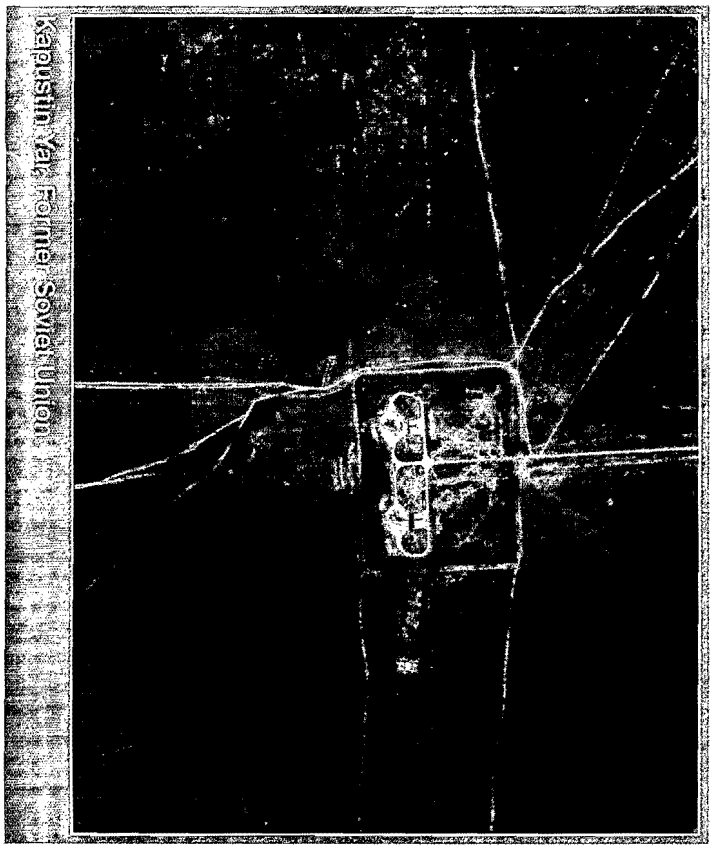
The KH-7 imaging system was the Intelligence Community's first high-resolution imaging satellite. It effectively complemented the early broad area search coverage of the KH-4 imaging system. In essence, the KH-4 search system was dedicated to answering the question, "Is there something there?" The KH-7 surveillance imaging system acquired imagery after an imagery analyst had decided "There IS something of interest there."

This high-resolution satellite acquired imagery of small areas on the ground at resolutions good enough to permit intensive scientific and technical analysis by skilled interpreters. The KH-7's small "footprint" on the ground was around 120 sq nm whereas the KH-4 system footprint was an average of 1075 sq nm. Thus, the KH-7 was characterized as a surveillance or spotting system.

The National Photographic Interpretation Center, a NIMA legacy organization, was the prime organiza-



Chin-Chin-Hsia Nuclear Facility, China



Kapustin Yar, Former Soviet Union

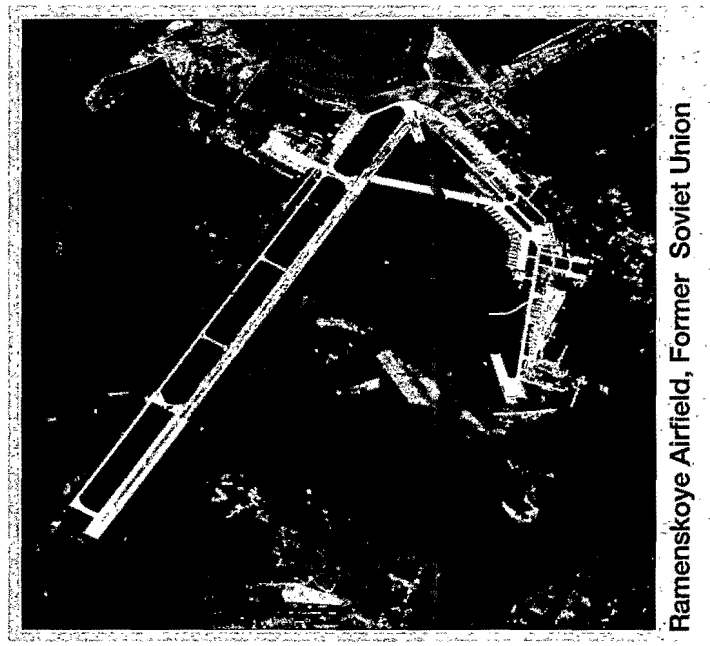
tion exploiting and reporting on this imagery. Areas of high priority were usually intelligence targets such as Soviet and Chinese nuclear installations, ICBM missile sites, phased array radars, military installations, bomber airfields, naval bases and occasionally coverage of comparable US facilities to provide a known database for Intelligence Community photo interpreters.

The KH-7 system was operational from July 1963 to June 1967. The satellite returned a single-bucket of exposed film to earth from each mission. Duration of the missions increased from one to eight days over this span. This high-resolution surveillance imaging system successfully returned imagery on 34 of the 38 missions; usable imagery for analysis was obtained on 30 of the 34 successful missions. The KH-7 imagery initially achieved a best resolution of approximately four feet (1.2 meters) on the ground. By 1966, best resolution improved to approximately two feet (0.6 meters).

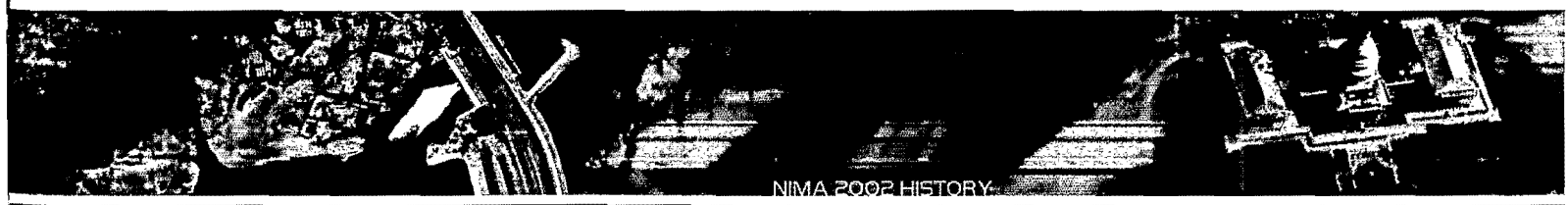
The KH-7 imaging system was a stripping camera capable of imaging areas 12 nm wide ranging from 5 nm to 400 nm long. Nearly 19,000 frames of varying length, totaling 43,000 linear feet, were returned between 1963 and 1967. The KH-7 was also used to conduct limited, high-resolution search of certain geographic areas. As a result, the system provided the key cartographic information from which accurate, large-scale (1:50,000) maps could be compiled for the Department of Defense.

In the era before the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement, significant imagery intelligence contributions were made by the KH-7 system on topics such as:

- Soviet Ballistic-Missile Submarine (SSBN) Production
- Soviet and Chinese Missile Test Ranges
- Development and testing of new bomber and fighter aircraft
- Operational ICBM Complexes
- Soviet Ground Force Divisions
- Nuclear Testing in the South Pacific.

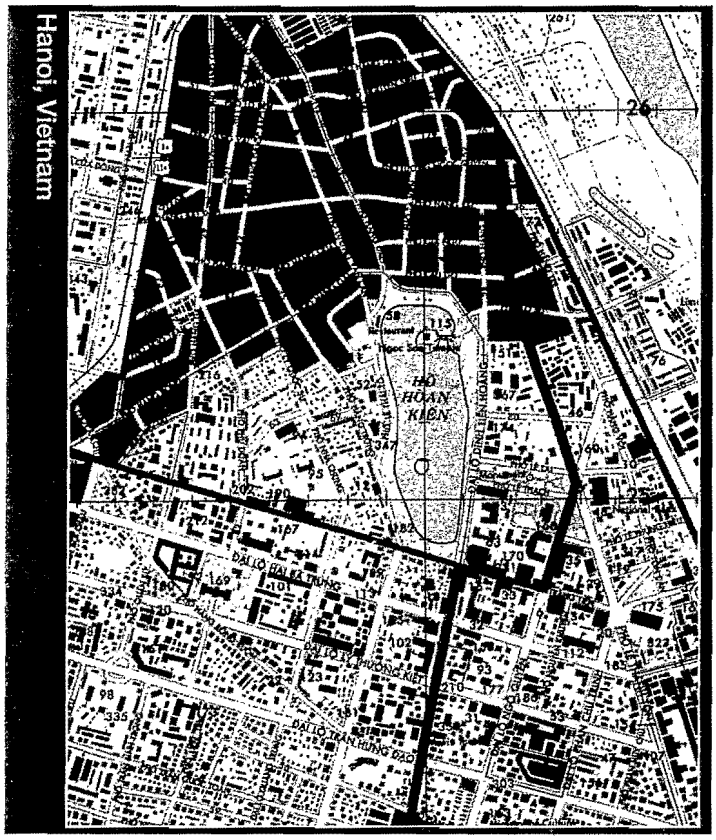


Ramenskoye Airfield, Former Soviet Union



Mapping the Earth from Space

In the mid-1960s, the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) mandated that large, contiguous areas of the earth be collected from space at higher geodetic accuracies than could previously be acquired. CORONA's KH-4 system, which flew its last mission in May 1972, provided some imagery for cartographers and mapmakers. The KH-5 mapping system, operational from 1962 to 1964, provided the first imaging capability,

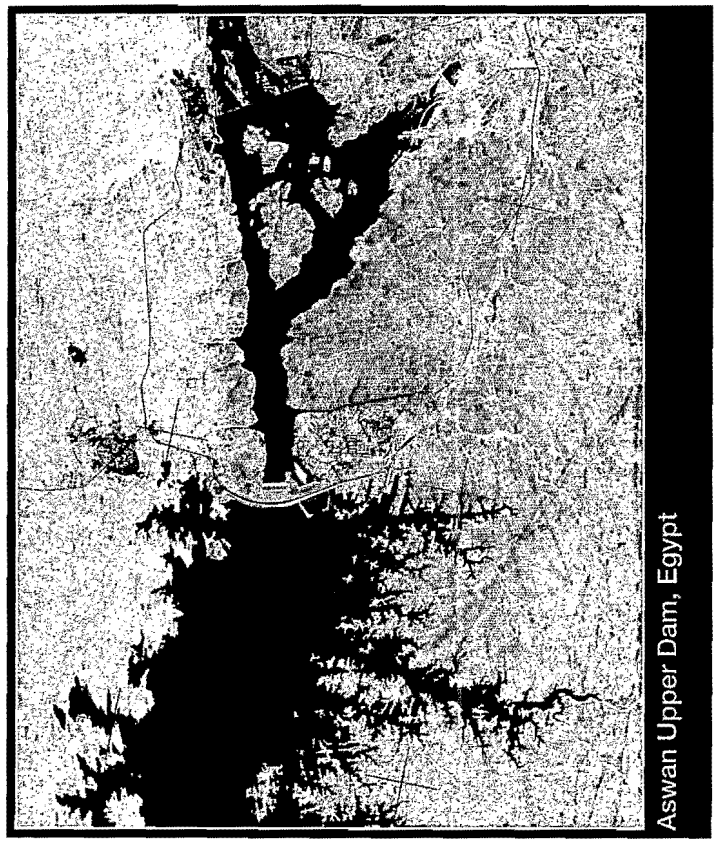


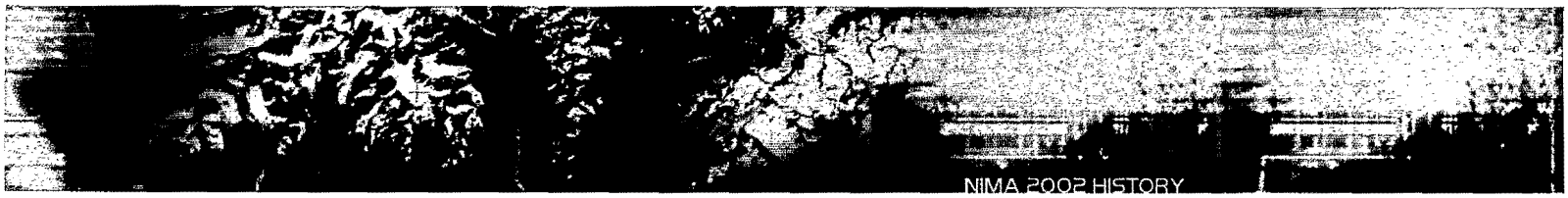
albeit of very low resolution, devoted solely to mapping, charting, and geodesy (MC&G). The need for improved mapping of the earth's surface to support Department of Defense weapons systems spurred development of a frame camera for government cartographers and mapmakers. Developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s and successfully launched in March 1973, the KH-9 frame camera imagery, was devoted solely to MC&G. Twelve KH-9 mapping missions returned imagery from 1973 to 1980.

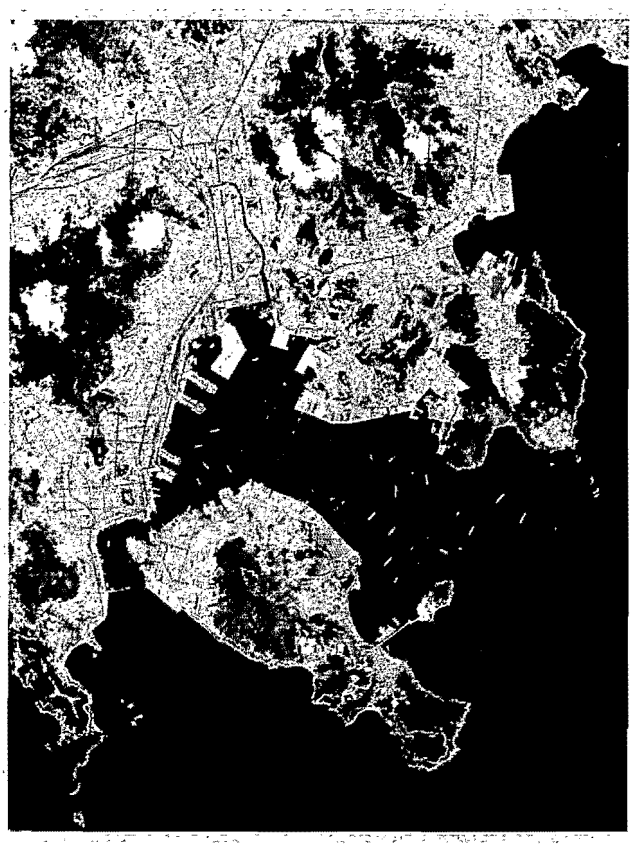
KH-9 Geospatial Imaging System

The KH-9 mapping (frame) camera was used to create geospatial products at a significantly higher accuracy than the KH-5 imaging system. The system was designed to support foreign and domestic mapping requirements and global geodetic positioning. The geodetic data, consisting of precise geographic positioning, elevation, and similar information, provided users with accurate point locations for air, sea, and ground operations. The biggest users of this imagery were the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA), another of NIMA's legacy organizations, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The KH-9 mapping system provided better than a four-fold improvement in accuracy, and more than a ten-fold improvement in resolution, over the KH-5 mapping camera. A single KH-9 frame camera bucket containing exposed film was jettisoned to earth for processing, printing, and geospatial work. Each frame of imagery covered a ground "footprint" of approximately 70 nm by 140 nm. Total ground coverage for







Pusan Harbor, North Korea

the twelve missions was approximated at 104 million square nautical miles. The frame camera missions totaled approximately 48,000 linear feet of film over 29,000 frames. Most coverage of key control point areas was imaged in stereo and sometimes three times (called trilaps) on a single operation to give the geospatial analysts enough information to create precise maps and charts.

The information derived from this imagery was also used for tactical and strategic weapons systems targeting planning. Level 1 Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED) was produced as well as accurate maps at a 1:200,000 scale.

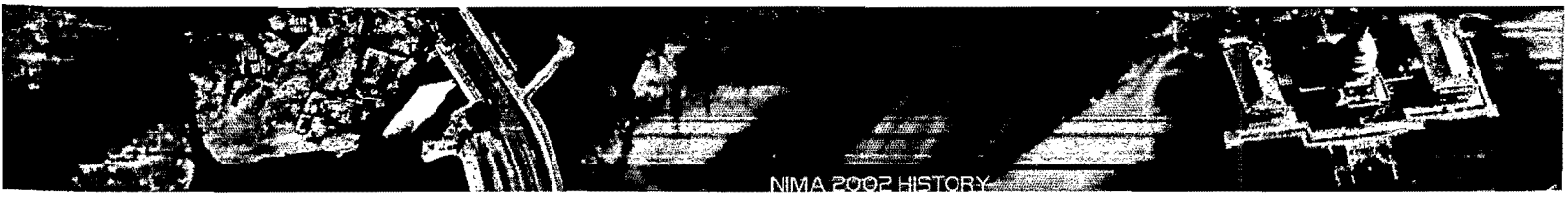
Public Release of Information

With the demise of the Cold War, a movement was begun to release millions of previously classified documents and other materials to the public. The hope was to further foster a climate of openness by providing American citizens with more information about their government, showing how tax dollars were spent, and demonstrating the results of public investment in national security. Initial studies indicated that there were many avenues for use of national historic imagery such as geo-political research, comparisons to modern commercial imagery to study the environmental impact of weather, pollution, urban growth, and the affects of national disasters.

The effort to release imagery from the first satellite systems was launched in 1993 by Director of Central Intelligence Robert M. Gates. The Central Imagery Office, another of NIMA's predecessor organizations, chaired the Classification Review Task Force (CRTF). In 1995, the CRTF recommended declassification of imagery and metadata collected by the KH-1 through KH–6 imaging systems, flown from 1960 to 1972..

In response to the CRTF recommendation, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12951 (E.O. 12951) on February 22, 1995, authorizing the public release of certain scientifically or environmentally useful imagery. The Order stated that obsolete, broad-area film-return imaging systems should be reviewed within five years (i.e., by February 2000), and other systems should be reviewed periodically, to ensure that as much of this imagery as possible is made available to the public for research and other uses. It permitted, for the first time, the public release of photographic images acquired by the first space-based national intelligence satellite reconnaissance systems. Further, the EO assigned final imagery release authority of future imagery or imaging systems to the Director of Central Intelligence, with concurrence of the Secretaries of Defense and State, and directed the DCI and the Archivist of the United States to establish procedures for the transfer, storage and public access of declassified imagery.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), located in College Park, MD, was desig-



nated as the recipient for the declassified original film negatives. The original film negatives (approximately 866,000 frames or 2.1 million linear feet of film) from the 120 successfully retrieved CORONA (KH-1 through KH-6) satellite film buckets were transferred to NARA in mid-1996. Duplicate negatives were produced for the Department of Interior's United States Geological Survey's EROS Data Center (EDC), Sioux Falls, SD, which serves as the clearing house for ordering imagery from the declassified repository.

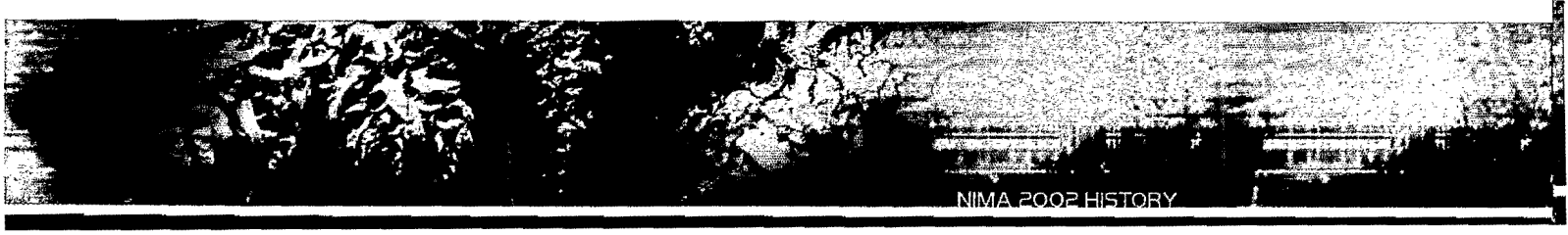

Hanoi, Vietnam

Historical Imagery Declassification (HID) Program

In December 1996, George J. Tenet, then-acting Director of Central Intelligence, tasked the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) to take the lead in reviewing other obsolete satellite reconnaissance systems, and their photographic products, for possible declassification. In response to this tasking, NIMA initiated the Historical Imagery Declassification (HID) Program as a working group under the Imagery Policy and Security Committee (IPSCOM).

In July 1998, a Senior Steering Committee, composed of senior managers from within the Intelligence, Defense, and civil communities, concurred with the IPSCOM recommendation to declassify imagery obtained by the obsolete KH-7 surveillance and KH-9 mapping (frame) systems. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright concurred with the declassification recommendations. DCI Tenet approved the declassification recommendations on October 25, 2000.

In early 2000, the Director NIMA authorized the use of Congressionally provided funding, sponsored by Senator J. Robert Kerrey's (D-Neb), "Imagery for Citizens" to support a CORONA-like implementation for declassification of the KH-7 and KH-9 mapping (frame) camera. The official turnover of the original imagery to the National Archives occurred on August 14, 2002.



Uses for Historical Imagery

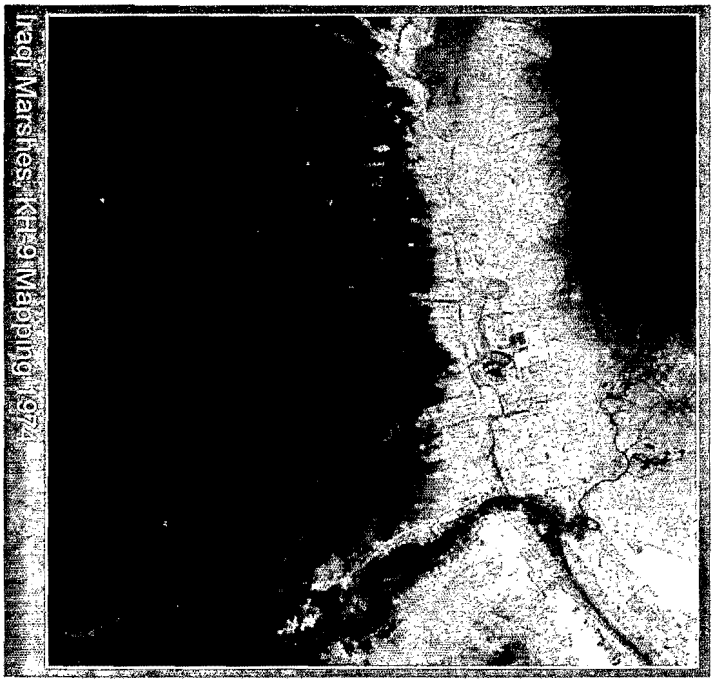
The Historical Imagery Declassification Program provides a new source of thousands of satellite photographic images for historians, scientists, government agencies and the public. Declassified imagery can provide significant historical data for issues that are not attainable from current civil systems.

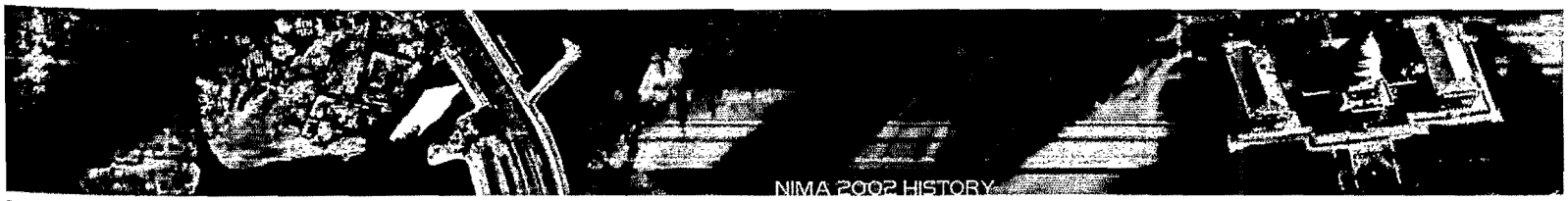
Historic satellite imagery, when used in conjunction with other sources, provides historical "ground truth". When used as a comparison to today's commercial imagery, historical photographs allow relatively accurate comparisons about changes in the environment and events taking place in a particular geographic area.

Overhead images of such key events as the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Six-Day War, and Chinese and Soviet nuclear tests will be available. Researchers will have more access to key information about how the U.S. monitored the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Researchers will be able to follow the progress of space-based, satellite intelligence gathering through technological advances, political decisions and world events.

Declassified satellite imagery will provide environmental researchers with baseline historic data to allow comparisons with current products for study of such issues as:

- wetlands mapping
- coastal management
- population expansion and urbanization
- forest ecosystems and turnover rates
- renewable resource management studies
- glacier tracking
- floodplain and reclamation research
- major construction projects
- waste management
- detailed review of changes in land use
- documenting the consequences of environmental pollution.

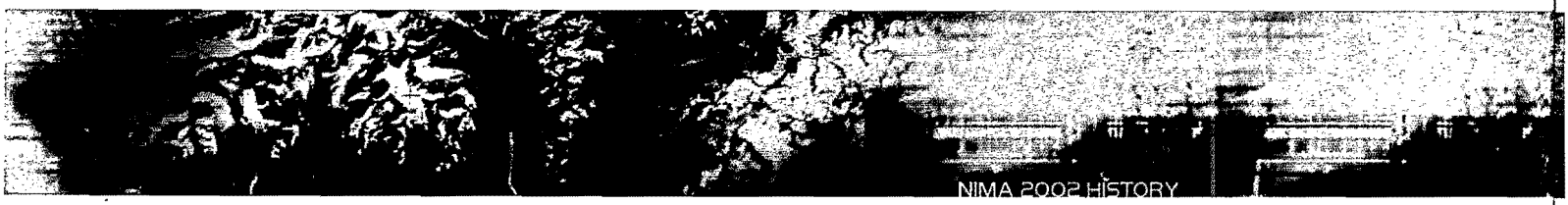




The higher resolution of national satellite imagery makes it an attractive means for establishing ground truth for lower resolution civil systems, particularly for inaccessible regions. The resolution and frequency of national satellite imagery over a specific geographic area enhances the value of imagery for specific environmental processes critical to a broad range of issues e.g. the role of vegetation changes in the carbon cycle or the influence of sea ice on heat transfer between oceans and the atmosphere. In addition, images may be used to help determine agricultural patterns, deforestation rates, or erosion patterns, in support of land management programs. Such information will allow better interpretation of data from civil systems.

Government agencies will also benefit from the Historical Imagery Declassification Program. The satellite imagery can provide historical, baseline comparisons for geological, geodetic and petroleum studies, as well as other resource exploration and management. The imagery will be available to review/compare historic boundaries, treaty agreements and regulatory enforcement across political boundaries. Imagery may also be used to track changes in commercial areas, crop production, land use, and industrial sites, landfills, hazardous waste and wide-area resource management studies.

Logan and Walsh Glaciers, Yukon Territory, Canada



Bios

Mr. Deane J. Allen

Mr. Allen serves as Chief Historian for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Prior to that, he was the Historian for Air Force Intelligence. Collectively, Mr. Allen has over 34 years in the Federal Government as a military historian. He has authored or contributed to over 35 book-length military histories as well as numerous articles and other products. Mr. Allen holds master's degrees from the University of Dayton and Georgetown University.

Lieutenant General James R. Clapper, Jr., USAF (Ret.)

General Clapper has been Director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) since September 2001. Prior to that, General Clapper held senior-level positions with SRA International, Inc., Booz Allen Hamilton, and Vredenburg, Inc. He has served as consultant for the House Intelligence Committee, the former Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office, the Defense Policy and Science Boards, and as President of the Security Affairs Support Association. During his military career, General Clapper held a variety of intelligence-related positions, culminating with his last assignment as Director of the DIA. His many U. S. military and foreign government awards and decorations include the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. He earned a Master's degree from St. Mary's University, and received an honorary doctorate from the Joint Military Intelligence College.

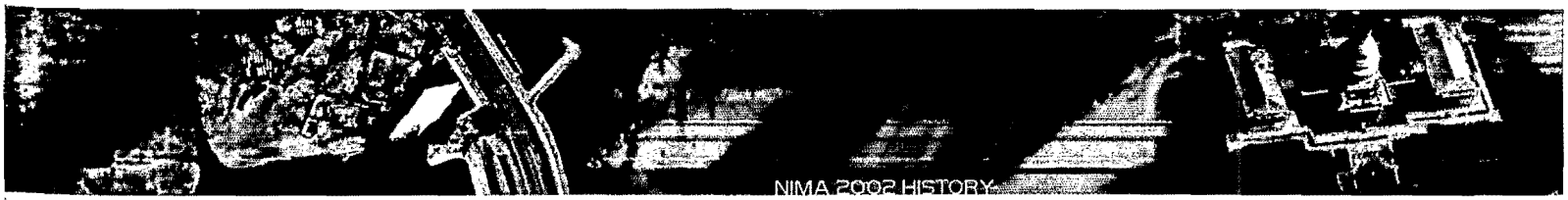
Mary E. Clutter, Ph.D.

Dr. Clutter is Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), responsible for the Biological Sciences Directorate that supports all major areas of fundamental research in biology.

Dr. Clutter has held a number of positions at the Foundation including Division Director of Cellular Biosciences, Senior Science Advisor to the Director, and Acting Deputy Director, NSF. In addition to her work at NSF, she serves on a number of science-related task forces and working groups. Dr. Clutter earned her doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and received honorary doctorates from Allegheny College and Mount Holyoke College.

Martin K. Gordon, Ph.D.

Dr. Gordon is NIMA's Chief Historian. Before that, he worked in the Army Corps of Engineers and the Marine Corps history programs. He has published numerous articles on topics including early chemical warfare and the history of the District of Columbia, and a book on the American militia system. Dr. Gordon received his doctorate from George Washington University and currently is a faculty associate in history at Johns Hopkins University.



Gerald A. Heeger, Ph.D.

Dr. Heeger currently serves as President of University of Maryland, University College (UMUC). Prior to his appointment as President of UMUC, he served as Dean of New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. His over 30 years of service as an educator and school administrator include positions with the New School for Social Research, the University College at Adelphi University, and the University of Virginia. He is widely admired for his creativity in partnering higher education with corporations and for innovation in program development. At UMUC, he has endeavored to create educational opportunities for thousands of students world wide for whom traditional course delivery is inadequate. He is currently serving a three year term as a member of the Commission on Adult Learning Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education. Dr. Heeger earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

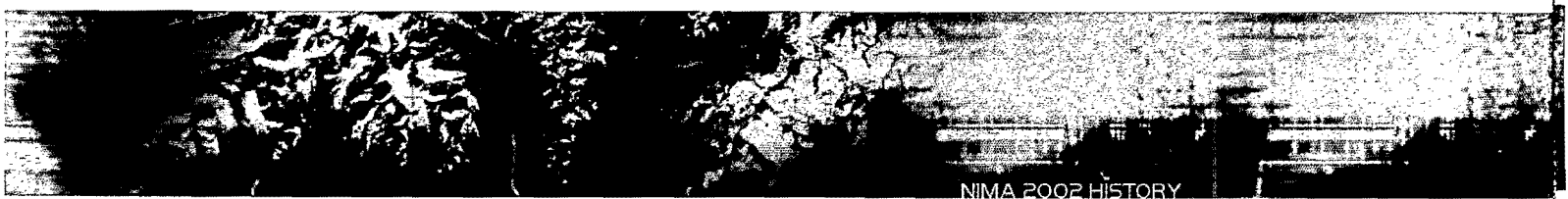
The Honorable J. Robert Kerrey

Mr. Kerrey currently serves as President of the New School University, New York City. Prior to his appointment, he served as a United States Senator from Nebraska for 14 years. One of his key assignments in the Senate was to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. In this capacity, he was a strong advocate of Intelligence Community imagery programs, in particular, the use of high-resolution commercial imagery and the release of declassified imagery to the public. Mr. Kerrey has become a recognized advocate of fiscal responsibility, education technology, health care and entitlement reform, and a strong farm economy.

Mr. Kerrey has served on congressionally chartered commissions in areas of healthcare, tax reform, education and the Intelligence Community. He has been a promoter of improving educational opportunities for Nebraska's youth and has fought to increase funding in the areas of math and science. He launched CLASS (Communications Learning and Assessment in a Student-centered System project), a fully interactive high school distance learning curriculum on the Internet. Mr. Kerrey is a previous recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and, prior to his tenure in the Senate, served as Governor of Nebraska.

Mr. Lawrence Kindsvater

Mr. Kindsvater presently holds the position of Executive Director for Intelligence Community Affairs with the Central Intelligence Agency. Prior to this, he served as Director for the Community Management Staff's Resource management Office, where he was responsible for the formulation, preparation, presentation, and defense of the National Foreign Intelligence Program's budget. Mr. Kindsvater received a master's degree from Bowling Green State University.



Michael J. Kurtz, Ph.D.

Dr. Kurtz is the Assistant Archivist for the Office of Records Services with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). He joined NARA in 1974, and has worked in various archival and staff positions in the Office of the Federal Records Centers, Office of Management and Administration, and the Office of the National Archives. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland's College of Information Services. He has had several publications in the areas of archival management, the American Civil War, and World War II. Dr. Kurtz received his doctorate from Georgetown University.

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Mr. Warfle is the Director of NIMA's Office of Corporate Relations. Prior to this, he held several senior-level positions, most recently, as Chief of NIMA's Support Team at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). He also served as an analyst and planner with DIA and the Central Imagery Office. Mr. Warfle has received numerous awards for his civilian career performance and military decorations for his duty as a Commander within the U.S. Naval Reserve. Mr. Warfle received master's degrees from Georgetown University and the National Defense University.

Accessing Declassified Imagery

USGS EROS Data Center

The USGS EROS Data Center (EDC) currently serves as the clearinghouse for orders from the public for declassified satellite imagery contained within the EarthExplorer information system. The EDC has thumbnail (or browse) images of most frames associated with the declassified collection. The imagery is retrievable by latitude/longitude, date of imaging, mission/pass/frame numbers, and/or the place name through EarthExplorer.

The public will be able to order KH-7 and KH-9 frame imagery in the near future. Potential customers and the general public may retrieve and browse images online on their personal computers. A secured e-commerce site is also available to accept credit card purchase for photographic prints and film transparencies. The EarthExplorer web site also includes other satellite and aerial photography-based collections available to the general public. Interested parties should log onto http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov.

NARA

A duplicate photographic positive of KH-7 and KH-9 imagery, produced from the original film, will reside at NARA's facility in College Park, MD. To access imagery at NARA, a person must first obtain a researcher identification card. The KH-7 and KH-9 imagery, along with the KH-1 through KH–6 imagery, resides in NARA's Cartographic and Architecture research area. Research support officials in this area will provide orientation to the archival records, assist in finding relevant indexes and finding aids, facilitate the forms necessary to request delivery of materials to the research room, and help in the ordering of prints or transparencies. Light tables are available at NARA to view the duplicate positive imagery for research and ordering. Prints may be ordered from one of NARA's local authorized vendors.

NARA also has computer workstations for ordering imagery products from the EDC once researchers have identified the specific area(s) of interest. Preliminary research may be accomplished from home or office (i.e., locating areas of interest on maps or the Internet) prior to placing an order. NARA's research department may be queried via telephone, fax, or email. Useful information on how to access records at NARA may be found by logging on to http://www.nara.gov or by phoning 1-866-325-7208.