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# Policy Notice 001/97

Admin

## Declassification of NRO Launch and Associated Facts

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From: [REDACTED]

Drafter: [REDACTED]

Releaser: [REDACTED]

To: AIG-711

Info: [REDACTED]

Reference: NRO Launch Declassification Message dated 130002Z Dec 96 (Cite 7881)

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This message was coordinated with the NRO's Office of Space Launch.

1. Effective 1 March 1997, the NRO declassified most administrative information relative to the NRO launch management process - to include certain industrial partners that are integral members of the NRO launch base teams. This is a follow-on to the 18 December 1996 declassification of "FACT OF NRO LAUNCH."
2. The following changes and further detailed information will be reflected in a forthcoming revision to the NRO Classification Guide as well as the applicable launch classification guidance.

Effective 1 March the following information was downgraded in classification:

- o A. Fact that NRO personnel are assigned to Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS), FL, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), CA, Building A-5 in Los Angeles, CA.- UNCLASSIFIED;

o B. [REDACTED]

- o C. [REDACTED]
- o D. Fact that a specific NRO directorate (e.g. IMINT, SIGINT, etc.) is sponsoring an NRO launch. - ~~SECRET/BYEMAN~~ (Certain information will be provided at the TK level);
- o E. Information revealing an association of the NRO with: SAF/SL; OL-QPS; OL-VNBG. - UNCLASSIFIED;
- o F. Fact that Air Force Program (AFP) designators are used for certain NRO payloads after 18 December 1996. - UNCLASSIFIED;
- o G. Fact that a particular AFP designator is an NRO payload. - UNCLASSIFIED (past launches remain ~~SECRET/BYEMAN~~), (Certain information will be provided at the TK level);
- o H. Fact that a specific launch vehicle is supporting an NRO payload. - UNCLASSIFIED (past launches remain ~~SECRET/BYEMAN~~);
- o I. Launch dates of a satellite vehicle (SV) identified by AFP number. - ~~SECRET/COLLATERAL~~;
- o J. Specific Launch date for individual satellites identified by collection mission number [REDACTED] - ~~SECRET/TALENT-KEYHOLE~~.

3. There is no change in classification policy relative to technical data, intelligence system operations, mission capabilities, technologies, and operating locations. This information will continue to be classified and, when appropriate, compartmented. Even though certain activities such as launch and early on-orbit operations, command and control, and health and status will be apparent to the space community, the NRO will not discuss mission operations.
4. As stated in Presidential Decision Directive/NSC-49, "National Space Policy" dated 14 September 1996, "the subject of satellite reconnaissance will not be discussed outside of classified channels." Although OSL personnel may acknowledge their organizational affiliation they are not to discuss operational details or functional matters.
5. The NRO will not make any public statement/press release regarding this action. It is NRO policy that personnel should maintain a low-profile when conducting business.
6. Guidance regarding the declassification of launch is being provided to those organizations who are intimately involved in launch operations. Questions regarding this initiative should be directed to your cognizant program security officer or the Office of Space Launch via the Launch Declassification hotline at [REDACTED] TO NRO OSL Security [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] OR STU-III [REDACTED].

CL BY: [REDACTED]  
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