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**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**

14675 Lee Road  
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**Office of the Director Announcement**

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**(U//~~FOUO~~) DECLASSIFYING THE  
GAMBIT AND HEXAGON IMAGERY SATELLITE PROGRAMS**

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 2 June 2011, I signed guidance for the declassification of most aspects of the retired GAMBIT (KH-7 and KH-8) and HEXAGON (KH-9) film-return imagery satellite programs, which operated from 1963 to 1984. The National Reconnaissance Office's (NRO) Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance and the NRO Information Access and Release Team are preparing the release of information and artifacts on 17 September 2011 in conjunction with the NRO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. In the interim, you should continue to keep information about these programs in official Government channels and not make any public disclosures.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Declassified information will include program names, mission numbers, operating dates, certain hardware, and details about the programs' history. The NRO will continue to protect some information still considered to be sensitive, such as international partnerships and information that would reveal facts about follow-on systems. This decision does not encompass imagery that these systems acquired, which is under the purview of the Historical Imagery Declassification Panel, chaired by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(U) The Imagery Intelligence Security Staff is leading a Security Education and Awareness Team to inform the workforce about this modification in policy, and provide notifications to stakeholders, classification guide changes, public affairs guidance, and points of contact for answering questions. You should start seeing security education materials shortly. You may obtain more information through your directorate's security office or [REDACTED]

  
Bruce Carlson

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