



Office of the Director

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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
14675 Lee Road
Chantilly, VA 20151-1715

10 August 2011

The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman
The Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger, Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ruppertsberger:

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 17 September 2011, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) will announce the declassification of most programmatic information about the GAMBIT (KH-7 and KH-8) and HEXAGON (KH-9) family of imaging systems. 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, including such things as international partnerships and information that would reveal facts about follow-on systems. NRO is reviewing GAMBIT and HEXAGON program information in preparation for its release. This decision does not encompass imagery that these systems acquired, which is undergoing declassification review under the purview of the Historical Imagery Declassification Panel, chaired by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(U//~~FOUO~~) GAMBIT and HEXAGON were Cold War-era, film-return, satellite reconnaissance systems. GAMBIT operated between 1963 and 1984; HEXAGON operated between 1971 and 1984. NRO developed these systems after the CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD film-return satellite reconnaissance systems. Most CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD programmatic data and imagery were declassified in 1995.

(U) Should you have any questions or require more information, please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. We are sending this letter to the leadership of all intelligence oversight committees.

Sincerely,

Bruce Carlson

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