

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
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Director's Note

Number 2008-05

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(U) OPEN SOURCE REPORTING ON NRO MISSIONS

~~(U//FOUO)~~ Recently, two journalists compiled an article mentioning how symbols used in unclassified logos and patches can reveal information about National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) satellite identities and missions that are otherwise classified. Additional spin-off articles will likely include increased speculation, and quotes by so-called "officials" and "experts" and are expected to continue in both the U.S. and foreign press.

(U) All briefed personnel are reminded that their access to Sensitive Compartmented Information carries with it the grave responsibility of protecting that information from improper and unauthorized disclosure and compromise. Failure to comply with these obligations can result in irreparable harm to the nation, and risks severe penalties for the individuals responsible as set forth by Titles 18 & 50, United States Code. The NRO does not publicly acknowledge mission specifics of its launches. Considering the increased open source speculation, it is likely that additional dialog and questions pertaining to this article will be forthcoming.

(U) You are hereby reminded to adhere to the following guidelines:

- a. (U) Do not confirm and/or deny any open source information relating to NRO programs and/or activities;
- b. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Do not actively pursue open source documents, Internet discussion forums or World Wide Web searches regarding similar articles;
- c. (U) Never assume that NRO information, because of its age, has been automatically declassified;
- d. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ When in doubt, the best response is "no comment."

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(U) If you have any questions regarding handling of open source information, please contact your Program Security Officer.

//signed//  
Scott F. Large

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