

POPPY Program Fact Sheet

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), National Security Agency (NSA) and Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) announced the declassification of the POPPY electronic intelligence reconnaissance program on Mon. Sept. 12, 2005. NRO Deputy Director Dennis Fitzgerald hosted a recognition ceremony at NRO headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia to honor the key contributors and program participants. The following program facts are releasable information:

- The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) proposed and developed POPPY, an electronic intelligence (ELINT) satellite system in 1962.
- POPPY succeeded the Galactic Radiation and Background (GRAB) ELINT satellite system.
- POPPY's mission was to collect radar emissions from Soviet naval vessels.
- The primary organizations that supported the POPPY Program included NRO, NSA, NRL, the Naval Security Group, the Air Force Security Service, the Army Security Agency and the Office of Naval Intelligence.
- The POPPY Program was a component of the NRO Program C.
- NRL designed, developed, and operated POPPY satellites within Program C.
- NRO Program A provided launch support for POPPY.
- NSA received, analyzed, and reported findings derived from the intercepted radar signals from POPPY.
- The Naval Security Group, with support from Air Force Security Service and Army Security Agency, coordinated field operations and maintained and operated POPPY ground sites.
- The POPPY Program operated from December 1962 through August 1977.
- A total of seven POPPY satellites launched into space from 1962 to 1971. The launch dates are as follows: Dec. 13, 1962, June 15, 1963, Jan. 11, 1964, March 9, 1965, May 31, 1967, Sept. 30, 1969, and Dec. 14, 1971.
- POPPY's average useful life on orbit was 34 months.
- Photographs of POPPY satellites are releasable.

Please contact NRO Office of Corporate Communications at 703-808-1198 regarding additional information or questions.