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6 July 1998
NROD 82-1a
Acquisition Management

SUBJECT: NRO Space Launch Management

A. SYNOPSIS. This Directive sets forth the policy and organizational responsibilities for space launch management in the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO).

B. AUTHORITY. Presidential Decision Directive/NSC-49, National Space Policy, September 14, 1996; Presidential Decision Directive/NSTC-4, National Space Transportation Policy, August 5, 1994; DOD-CIA Agreement for the Reorganization of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), August 11, 1965; NRO Directive 7, January 19, 1993; NRO Classification Guide (U), Version 4.0, October 14, 1995; NRO Acquisition Manual, March 31, 1996.

C. BACKGROUND. Under the NRP, the NRO is responsible for the design, development, deployment, and operation of space intelligence collection satellites and their associated infrastructure. The NRO satellite systems are composed of multiple space and ground systems that are supported by an infrastructure. A key infrastructure element is the planning, acquisition, integration, and operation of the space launch segment.

D. PURPOSE. This document defines the space launch planning, acquisition, integration, and execution policies for all satellite programs managed by the NRO whether in planning, development, production, or operations, as well as all studies concerning space launch systems affecting NRO Programs.

E. APPLICATION. This directive applies to all NRO programs.

F. POLICY.

1. The NRO is responsible for and will manage its space launch system planning, acquisition, security, public affairs, and operation. The NRO will retain control of its space launch hardware and operations to assure a successful deployment of its satellites.

a. The NRO will develop launch schedules that support

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satellite constellations and that meet validated mission/customer requirements within constraints of the National Mission Model.

b. The NRO will use either the Air Force Materiel Command as its acquisition agent, or may contract directly for space launch systems or commercial launch services. The NRO will budget and manage the acquisition of its space launch systems to meet the approved launch planning dates of its satellites. The NRO will control its space launch systems security, operation planning, and execution.

c. The NRO will use either Air Force Space Command as its operations agent, or contract for an operations agent. The NRO will control its data, procedures, ground equipment, security, and satellites. The NRO will control its space launch systems security, operation planning, and execution.

d. The NRO will have a mission assurance program for its launch systems. The NRO mission assurance program will include the space launch system and its acquisition, operations, and execution.

e. The NRO will assess space launch system and satellite readiness to launch.

f. Processing of NRO satellite systems for space launch will be under the control of the NRO.

g. The authority to launch NRO satellites is vested in the Director, NRO (DNRO).

2. NRO Program Guidelines:

a. The NRO is responsible for and will manage planning and selection of its space launch systems consistent with national space policies.

b. The NRO baseline is to use a Government, centrally procured Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle for access to space unless there is justification indicating substantial cost, schedule, or performance benefits associated with another space launch system or acquisition strategy.

1) All satellite programs will include a centrally procured Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle in launch systems trade analysis for Phase A, B, & C decisions of the NRO Acquisition Board.

2) All satellite programs, except technology demonstration programs managed by the Advanced Systems and

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Technology Directorate, will baseline centrally procured EELVs for Phase A, B, & C decisions of the NRO Acquisition Board.

c. To the maximum extent possible, the NRO will use standard services provided by space launch systems and follow their operations guidelines with the goal of minimizing NRO impact to the space launch systems.

1) The NRO will not introduce program unique modifications to any space launch system without total system performance and cost justification.

2) As a goal, NRO satellites will utilize off-line processing facilities for processing at the launch base. The NRO will minimize the time prior to launch that the satellite is attached to the launch vehicle.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES. The Director, Office of Space Launch (D/OSL) is responsible for launch planning that responds to validated mission/customer requirements; is responsible for manifesting of NRO assets; and is the focal point for NRO space launch system planning, acquisition, integration, and operation. The Satellite Vehicle System Program Offices (SV SPO) Directors will act as the focal point for all SV SPO acquired goods and services. The D/OSL will be designated by a letter of delegation, signed by the DNRO, as the NRO Mission Director for all NRO Programs.

H. IMPLEMENTATION. The Implementing Instructions for the Space Launch Management supplemented by Baseline Agreements will be used to document the details of the relationship between the organizations involved in NRO space launch.

/Signed/
Keith R. Hall
Director

OPR: OSL

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This directive supersedes NROD 82-1, dated 29 April 1997.

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