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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER

1 March 2012

Colonel James E. Roberts  
Vice Commander  
1030 S. Highway A1A  
Patrick AFB FL 32925-3002

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for "all releasable documents pertaining to Operation Morning Light." As per your e-mail, 29 May 2009, we processed only the six pages responsive to your request. We assigned case number SOF 09-007 for our tracking purposes. Your request for the release of the subject document is partially denied.

A review was conducted by AFTAC's program area managers, classification manager, and controlled unclassified information manager. Information was found requiring continued protection in the interest of national security. Additionally the document contains FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY information which if released would cause a foreseeable harm to an interest protected by the FOIA. Information is denied pursuant to Title 5, United States Code (USC), § 552(b)(1), national security information, and (b)(6), privacy information.

As Vice Commander, Air Force Technical Applications Center, I am the original classification authority and the initial denial authority for the agency equities requested under the FOIA. In consultation with the program area manager, classification manager and controlled unclassified information manager, I have assessed the requested documents contain information which is currently and properly classified SECRET in accordance with Executive Order 13526. The redacted information reveals classified processes, capabilities, and functions. Any unauthorized release could cause serious damage to the national security and would cause significant political ramifications that would directly affect current national security policy. Information is redacted and appropriate annotations made in the margins adjacent to the information; all reasonably segregable portions are provided.

FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), requires withholding of information in personnel, medical, and similar files where disclosure "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." In applying Exemption 6 a balancing test must be done, weighing the privacy interests of the individuals named in a document against the public interest in disclosure of the

information requested. The public interest in disclosure is one that will "shed light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties" [Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Committee, 489 U.S. 749, 773 (1989)]. In this instance, names do not shed any light on the way the Air Force mission is carried out or how the Air Force performs its statutory functions; therefore, the information is being withheld.

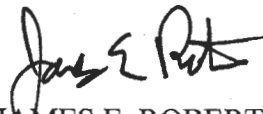
If you interpret this denial as an adverse action, you may appeal this decision. If you elect to do so, write to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 calendar days from the date of this response letter. It is very important that you include in your appeal request any additional reasons for reconsideration. Attach a copy of this letter and reference case number SOF 09-007. Submit your appeal online at the Air Force Public Access Link, <https://www.foia.af.mil/palMain.aspx>, or address your appeal letter to:

Secretary of the Air Force  
THRU: AFTAC/SOF (FOIA)  
1030 S. Highway A1A  
Patrick AFB FL 32925-3002

During processing of your case, we received guidance from the Office of the Secretary of Defense FOIA Appellate Authority on your news media status. As a result of the appellate authority's decision, we changed your fee category to "all others." As such, you are provided the first 2 hours of search and the first 100 pages at no cost. You are required to pay for any additional search (\$20.00-\$75.00/hr), and duplication costs (\$.15/page) above these gratuities. You do not pay for review charges. We are waiving fees associated with this case in accordance with the FOIA, as amended.

Direct any questions to Ms. L. Renee Clary at AFTAC/SOF, phone (321) 494-8928, or e-mail [aftac.foia.rsc.contact@patrick.af.mil](mailto:aftac.foia.rsc.contact@patrick.af.mil). Refer to this case using our tracking number SOF 09-007 in any future communications.

Sincerely



JAMES E. ROBERTS, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander

2 Attachments:

1. Requested Document
2. Information on Office of Government Information Services

ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION  
CANCELLED BY REDACTION.  
AUTHORITY EO 13526  
BY L. Clary DATE 1 Mar 12

~~SECRET~~

**Unclassified**

File 2  
(P)

**HISTORY OF THE 1035TH TECHNICAL OPERATIONS GROUP**

**1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1978**

**VOLUME I**

**Prepared by**

**AF (b)(6)**

**International Affairs Division  
Directorate of Plans and Programs  
1035th Technical Operations Group  
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida**

**Reviewed by:**

*Robert A. Meisenheimer*

**ROBERT A. MEISENHEIMER, Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 1035th Technical Operations Group**

**Unclassified**

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*Org Chart with Key Personnel names p 147*

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Operations 7

~~(S)~~ MORNING LIGHT. Project MORNING LIGHT was initiated with the predicted reentry of COSMOS 954, a Soviet nuclear-powered ocean surveillance satellite. COSMOS 954 reentered the earth's atmosphere over Canada's Northwest Territories on 24 January 1978. Six aerial sampling sorties (3 WC-135 and 3 U-2) were flown over Central Canada and the Great Lakes region from 24-26 January at altitudes ranging from 11 to 21 Km. [REDACTED]

~~(S)~~ [REDACTED]

~~(S)~~ [REDACTED]

~~(S)~~ [REDACTED]

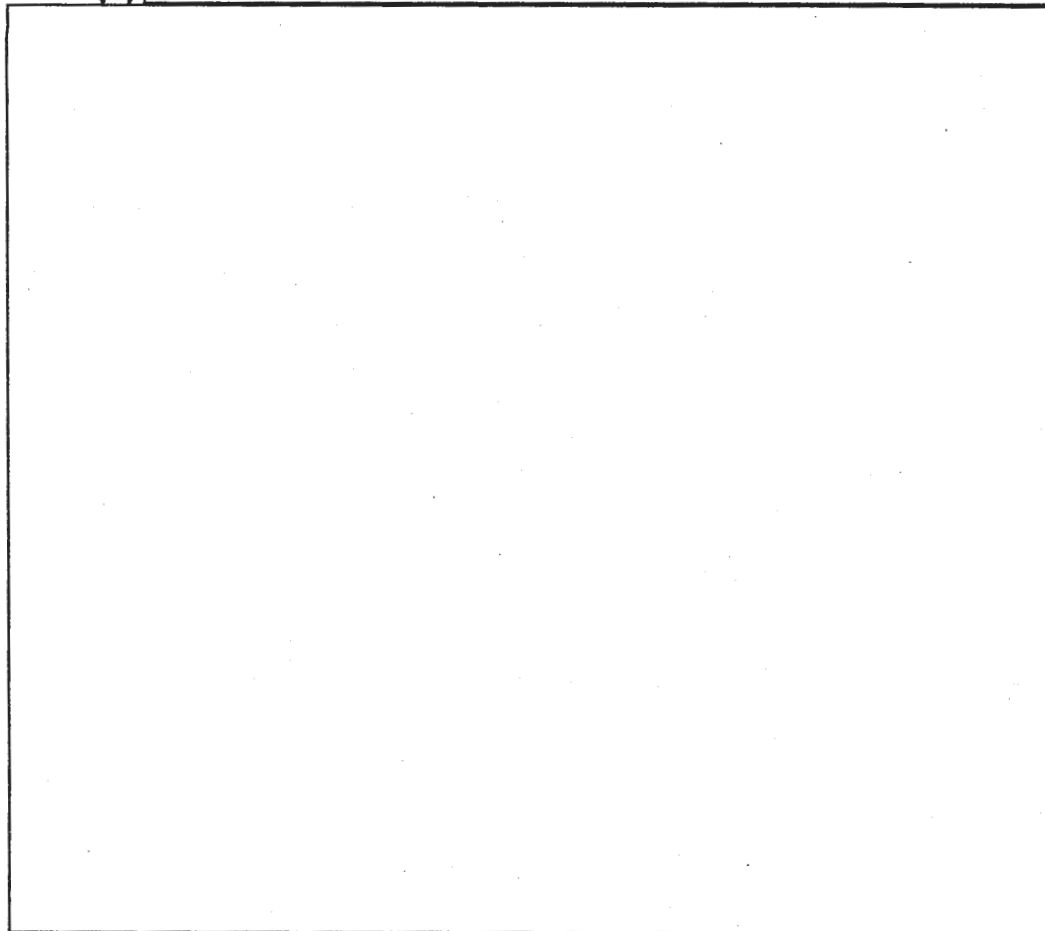
~~(S)~~ [REDACTED]

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**21-134—NON RESPONSIVE**

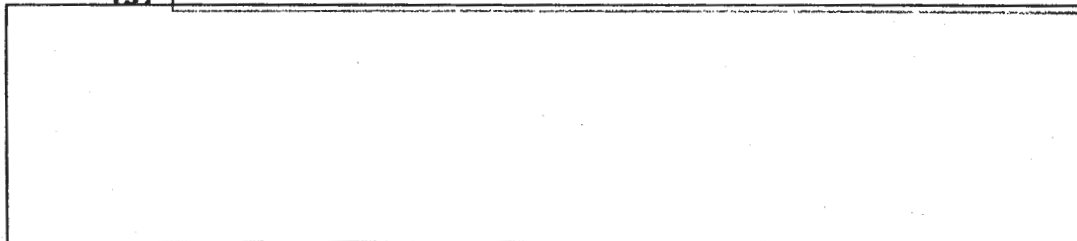
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~~(S)~~



\* Includes 51 sorties/300.3 hours of combined Morning Light continuation sampling during aircraft positioning.

~~(S)~~



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[REDACTED]

(S) In November 1977, the Reconnaissance Operations Branch was alerted to the possible requirement to conduct airborne sampling against the impending reentry of the Soviet Nuclear Powered Satellite, "COSMOS 954". An operational plan was formulated, presented, and approved in December. This operation assumed the nickname "MORNING LIGHT". [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Initially, three WC-135 sorties totalling 37.0 hours and three U-2 sorties totalling 32.1 hours were flown [REDACTED] Immediate danger of radiation existing in the atmosphere was dispelled; however, follow-on sorties were planned to assure no radiation fallout. To date, eight U-2 continuation sorties totalling 74.9 hours and four and one-half WC-135 sorties totalling 51.0 hours have been flown. Added to these hours are 251.8 flying hours logged during 42.5 sorties of joint requirements missions flown by WC-135 deployment/redeployment aircraft.

NON RESPONSIVE

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**137-187—NON RESPONSIVE**

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As part of the 2007 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) amendments, OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
Room 2510  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park MD 20740-6001

e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Telephone: 301-837-1996  
Facsimile: 301-837-0348

Toll-free: 877-684-6448