



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Corona Program Exhibit Posters Collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Corona Program Exhibit Posters Collection
Date:	(bulk 1995) (bulk 1961-1970)
Identifier:	NASM.2013.0029
Creator:	United States. Central Intelligence Agency United States. Air Force
Extent:	0.13 Cubic feet (2 folders; 15 photographs; 20 x 24 inches)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The United States' first photographic reconnaissance satellites were designed, launched, and operated as the Corona program by the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Science and Technology, and by the US Air Force. Operating between 1959 and 1972, Corona KH (Keyhole) series satellites provided worldwide photographic coverage, surveying ballistic missile development and nuclear sites of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. This collection consists of fifteen 20 x 24 inch photographic prints used in a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event in 1995, the year that the Corona program was declassified, 35 years after the first successful mission.
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM-9A10631: KH-4 (Corona) Reconnaissance Satellite photograph of Dolan Airfield, USSR (now Kazakhstan) taken circa 1968. Poster for National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) event, 1995.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

National Reconnaissance Office, Transferred from the Space History Department, 2013

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Allan Janus, 2013; updated and revised by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Corona Program Exhibit Posters Collection, Acc. NASM.2013.0029, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

The United States' first photographic reconnaissance satellites were designed, launched, and operated as the Corona program by the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Science and Technology, and by the US Air Force. Operating between 1959 and 1972, Corona KH (Keyhole) series satellites provided worldwide photographic coverage, surveying ballistic missile development and nuclear sites of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. Images were shot on film canisters which were ejected from the satellite, and were then recovered by specially modified aircraft during parachute descent. The Corona program was declassified by executive order in 1995, making over 800,000 photographs available to the public.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of fifteen 20 x 24 inch color photographic prints (predominantly reproducing black and white aerial photography) which were used in a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event in 1995, the year that the Corona program was declassified, 35 years after the first successful mission.

Arrangement

Materials are presented in original order received.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Artificial satellites
- Cold War
- KH-4 (Corona) Reconnaissance Satellite
- Photographic reconnaissance systems

Types of Materials:

- Aerial Photographs
- Photographs

Container Listing

Box 1	Corona Program Exhibit Posters (1 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>NASM-9A10627: "Eurasian Mission Coverage Plot", 1995</p> <p>Notes: Map showing coverage of KH-4A and KH-4B CORONA reconnaissance missions over Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>NASM-9A10628: "Declassified Imaging Satellite Systems", 1995</p> <p>Notes: Chart listing data on KH-1, KH-2, KH-3, KH-4, KH-4A and KH-4B CORONA; KH-5 ARGON and KH-6 LANYARD reconnaissance satellite systems. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>NASM-9A10629: [Group photograph of CORONA reconnaissance satellite program pioneers], May 24, 1995</p> <p>Notes: Group photograph of CORONA reconnaissance satellite program pioneers in front of the Central Intelligence Agency's Headquarters Building, May 24, 1995. From the Left; row 1: Roy B. Lefstad (Launch Base), James Alkofer (Eastman Kodak), Richard R. Moore (Program Office), Edward F. Blum (Program Office), Walter J. Levison (Itek), John A. Wolfe (Itek), Joseph P. O'Toole (Operations), Janet Tsutomi (Recovery Group). Row 2: (beginning with the second position) Forest S. McCartney (Operations), Mark Morton (General Electric), Edward A. Miller (General Electric), Rob Roy (Launch Base), Ingrad Clausen (General Electric), Francis J. (Frank) Madden (Itek), Richard S. Leghorn (Itek), William A. (Red) Sheppard (Program Office), Teuvo A. (Gus) Ahola (Recovery Group). Row 3: Charles L. Murphy (Operations), Frank S. Buzard (Program Office), Donald S. Schoessler (Eastman Kodak), Richard W. Stowe (Eastman Kodak), Vernard (Curly) Webb (Operations), Everett E. (Andy) Anderson (Recovery Group), Arthur H. Grafe (Recovery Group), Hilliard W. Paige (General Electric). Row 4: Paul E. Worthman (Program Office), James W. Plummer (Lockheed), Fred O'Green (Lockheed), John Parangosky (Program Staff), Albert W. (Bill) Johnson (Program Office), Daniel M. Kelly (program Office), James H. McDonald (Program Staff), Harry L. Conway (Recovery Group), Ralph J. Ford (Program Office). Also in the photograph on the extreme left and right of the second and first rows are the cochairs of the Corona Program 35th anniversary commemoration, Phil Datema and Robert A. McDonald. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance</p>

Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A10630: ["Comparison of 1964 and 1969 KH-4 Imagery", 1964-1969](#)
Notes: Comparison of KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photography of the Severodvinsk submarine shipyard, USSR, taken in 1964 (KH-4A) and 1969 (KH-4B). Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A10631: ["Soviet Long-Range Aviation Airfield", circa 1968](#)
Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of Dolan Airfield, USSR (now Kazakhstan) taken c.1968. Visible in the photograph are two squadrons of Tupolev Tu-16 "Badger" bombers. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A10632: ["Lincoln, Nebraska", November 12, 1968](#)
Notes: KH-4B CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of Lincoln, Nebraska taken November 12, 1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A10633: ["Soviet Tank Division Garrison, USSR", 1968](#)
Notes: KH-4A CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of a Soviet tank division installation at Borisov in what is now Belarus, 1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A10634: ["Sary Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR", circa 1968](#)
Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of the Sary Shagan Missile Test Center in southeastern Kazakhstan, circa 1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder
Unknown

Corona Program Exhibit Posters (2 of 2)

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10635: ["Soviet Ballistic Missile Complex", circa 1968](#)
Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of a Soviet SS-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) site at an unidentified location, circa 1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10636: ["Surface-to-Air Missile Defences, Chelyabinsk, USSR", circa 1968](#)

Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photographs of SA-2 and SA-5 surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites around an unidentified Soviet city, circa 1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10637: ["Moscow, USSR: 28 May 1970", May 28, 1970](#)

Notes: KH-4B CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of Moscow taken on May 28, 1970. A detail shows the an enlargement of the Kremlin. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10638: ["Imeni Gastello ICBM Complex, USSR", 1967](#)

Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of the Imeni Gastello intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) complex, Derzhavinsk, Kazakhstan, 1967. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10639: ["Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Planchou, China", November 1961](#)

Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of a gaseous diffusion plant for the production of enriched uranium, Lanzhou, northwestern China, November 1961. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10640: ["Soviet Solid Rocket Motor Production Plant", circa 1968](#)

Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of a Soviet solid rocket motor production plant near Biysk, Russia, c.1968. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.

Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A10641: ["Nuclear Test Site Near Lop Nur, China", October 20, 1964](#)

Notes: KH-4 CORONA reconnaissance satellite photograph of the Lop Nur Nuclear Test Base in Xinjiang, China. The photograph was made on October 20, 1964, four days after China conducted its first nuclear test. Poster made for a 1995 National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) conference or press event commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first successful CORONA mission.