

## INTELLIGENCE MILESTONES DURING THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION

- May 18, 1953 Special Evaluation Subcommittee of NSC, established By President Truman, January 19, 1953 (NSC 140) issued Report Summary Evaluation of the Net Capabilities of the USSR To Inflict Direct Injury on the United States up to July 1, 1955 (became NSC 140/1; NSC 140/1 was superseded by NSB 5423 in June 1954. Subsequent directives regarding a Net Evaluation subcommittee were approved as NSC 5511, 5605, 5728, and 5816.
- July 29, 1953 U.S. Air Force RB 50 aircraft shot down by Soviet fighters over Sea of Japan. One crew member rescued, 16 others lost. National Security Council was briefed on this shoot down on July 30, 1953.
- August 1953 Operation TP- AJAX, covert operation involving the CIA, ousted Mohammed Mossadegh as Prime Minister in Iran and restored Shah Pahlevi as head of the Iranian Government
- March 15, 1954 President Eisenhower approved NSC 5412 as official policy directive on US Government covert operations. Later amended as NSC 5412/1 and NSC 5412/2
- June 1954 Operation PBSUCCESS, CIA supported coup, resulted in Overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz government in Guatemala
- Summer 1954 President Eisenhower approved formation of National Indications Center for purpose of preventing strategic surprise. The Center Formed interagency staff of National Watch Committee.
- September 30, 1954 Committee chaired by General James Doolittle, presented to the President its report on covert activities of the CIA
- November 24, 1954 President Eisenhower approved program to produce 30 U-2 Aircraft
- February 1955 The Technological Capabilities Panel, chaired by James R. Killian, reported to the President, issuing recommendations concerning ICBM development, construction of DEW line, and acquisition and use of intelligence
- May 1955 Task Force on Intelligence Activities, chaired by General Mark Clark, issued report on Intelligence Activities in the Federal

- Government. Report prepared for the Commission on Organization Of the Executive Branch of the Government (Hoover Commission)
- May 27, 1955 President Eisenhower approved International Geophysical Year (IGY) scientific satellite project. One objective was to establish principle of freedom of space and right of unimpeded overflight.
- January 10, 1956 Initial balloon reconnaissance project, named GENETRIX) was launched. President Eisenhower terminated project in February 1956 after strong Soviet protests.
- January 13, 1956 President Eisenhower established the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities (PBCFIA), (Predecessor of the current President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board – PFIAB)
- June 20, 1956 First U-2 flight over denied (communist) territory (Poland, E. Germany & Czechoslovakia); On July 4 U-2 overflow Russia for first time
- August 22, 1956 U.S. Navy Patrol Plane, PM4 1 Martin Mercator shot down by Chinese Communist fighters 32 miles from Wenchow and 150 miles north of Formosa. 16 man crew lost.
- February 7, 1958 Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) established in Defense Department with authority over military space activity and temporary responsibility for US civilian satellite projects.
- February 7, 1958 President Eisenhower agreed to beginning of film-recovery satellite project separate from other military reconnaissance satellite programs. (Development of CORONA program)
- September 2, 1958 US C-130 aircraft with crew of 17 and equipped with electronic equipment was shot down near Soviet-Turkish border. Entire crew was lost. (For full list of Cold War shoot down incidents involving US reconnaissance aircraft, with some resulting in loss of military personnel, consult Eisenhower Library staff)
- March 17, 1960 President Eisenhower approved a plan of covert action directed against Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba
- May 1, 1960 U-2 aircraft, piloted by Francis Gary Powers is forced down within the Soviet Union with Powers being captured by Soviets. Premier Khrushchev walked out of Paris Summit Conference two weeks later resulting in failure of the conference.

- July 1, 1960 US reconnaissance aircraft, an RB-47, is shot down in Barents Sea north of the Soviet Union. Two crew members rescued, 4 died.
- August 18, 1960 First image successfully recovered from CORONA reconnaissance satellite
- December 15, 1960 Joint Study Group on Foreign Intelligence Activities, chaired by Lyman Kirkpatrick, presented its report to the Director of Central Intelligence. The Joint Study Group's recommendations were discussed at National Security Council meetings on January 5 and 12, 1961.