

Reston file

IC 3-154
Cred. 3-20-85
from Pettinger)

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December 3, 1984

Organizational History of EROS

1. September 21, 1966

EROS (Earth Resources Observation Satellite later changed to Earth Resources Observation Systems) program announced by Interior Secretary Stewart Udall in a news release--

"Project EROS is based upon a series of feasibility experiments carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey with NASA, universities, and other institutions over the past two years."

"Secretary Udall named Dr. William T. Pecora, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, to head the program."

2. October 21, 1966

Under Secretary Charles Luce sends NASA "operational requirements for global resource surveys by earth-orbital satellites."

3. July 12, 1969

EROS created by an Under Secretary Luce memorandum to Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Heads--

"EROS is a Departmental program for the resource utilization of all types of space data, supported by an operational satellite data collection system developed in collaboration with NASA and other resource agencies."

"In developing and implementing the EROS program we intend to build upon the established expertise and the arrangements for liaison and collaboration which now exist within the Geological Survey. EROS is, however, a Departmental program in the fullest sense of the term."

4. May 5, 1975

News release announcing formation of the Office of Land Information and Analysis (LIA) in the Survey which incorporated the Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) program "of the Interior Department and managed by the USGS." The EROS program was further described as follows:

Action	
Info	
Watkins	✓
Landis	✓
Metz	✓
Byrnes	✓
Rohde	✓
Admin.	✓
DP&DB	✓
CSB	✓
TD&AB	✓
Pettinger	
Alaska	
Techn.co or	
NOAA	
Bailey	✓

(distributed 3-21-85)

"The EROS program established in 1966, is carrying out numerous experiments using images and photos obtained from the LANDSAT satellites, from Skylab, and from high-altitude aircraft in a wide variety of natural resource and environmental studies. A key facility of this program is the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., where data from satellites and aircraft are received, processed, and distributed to users throughout the United States and many other countries."

5. June 3, 1980

Name changed from EROS Program to EROS Office and narrative revised in a revision of 120DM2 which reorganized the Land Information Office (LIA) and changed its name to Office of Earth Sciences Applications (OESA)--

"The Earth Resources Observation Systems Office is responsible for investigations of the application of remotely-sensed data acquired from satellite or aircraft to the solution of problems (1) conducting and sponsoring research in the application of remotely-sensed data of the Earth acquired from spacecraft and aircraft to Department of the Interior programs in mapping, geography, mineral and land resources, water resources, rangeland, wildlife, and environmental monitoring; (2) providing public sales and distribution outlets for imagery of the Earth obtained from spacecraft and aircraft to foreign and domestic data users; (3) providing training and assistance to domestic and foreign users of remotely-sensed data through various regional centers; (4) developing basic criteria for the remote sensing of Earth features that are applicable to the design and development of new and improved sensor and data processing systems; and (5) coordinating with other agencies on data requirements, system configurations, product formats, and space policies."

6. February 12, 1982.

Director's memorandum to Executive Committee called for disbanding of the Office of Earth Sciences Applications (OESA) and transferring of EROS into the National Mapping Division--

"EROS will remain as an integral operating unit and be transferred into the National Mapping Division. We will expect EROS to continue to foster the use of remote sensing technology within the Bureau and the

Department. If, in the future, restructuring of the EROS Office appears desirable, the Directorate will participate fully in the development of options and the making of decisions. In the near future, I will identify a technical Assistant Director to provide policy oversight on EROS issues and related remote sensing activities within the Bureau."

"I have set a target goal to accomplish the disbanding of OESA by the end of fiscal year 1982, and am committed to achieving this goal without a reduction in force or adverse action."

7. April 21, 1982

Director's memorandum to Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget, and Administration calling for revision of 120DM2 and 9--

"We are planning to transfer the Earth Resources Observation Systems Office . . . intact to the National Mapping Division"

8. July 29, 1982

Revision of 120DM2--

"The Earth Resources Observation Systems Office is transferred to the National Mapping Division."

9. November 4, 1982

Director's memorandum to Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget, and Administration calling for another revision of 120DM2 to include an "assimilation into the National Mapping Division of the Earth Resources Observation System Office (EROS)"--

"The title of the Chief, EROS, has been changed to Assistant Division Chief for Earth Resources Observation Systems"

10. December 21, 1982

Revision of 120DM6--

E. The Assistant Division Chief for Earth Resources Observation Systems is responsible for developing and demonstrating applications of remotely sensed data acquired from spacecraft and aircraft to the National Mapping Program, to other earth science and data collection programs of the Geological Survey, and to the resource and environmental management responsibilities of the Department of the Interior; developing basic

criteria for the remote sensing of Earth features and coordinating with other agencies on basic data and image requirements, product formats, and sensor system configuration; conducting, sponsoring, and coordinating research in the application of remotely sensed data to the Department's programs in mapping, earth science, and resource management, including the integration of remotely sensed data with other types of data; and providing direction to the EROS Data Center which conducts applications research for remotely sensed and other spatial data, reproduces and distributes remotely sensed data and imagery, and provides training and technical assistance to domestic and foreign governmental, academic, and industrial organizations.

11. July 6, 1983

Director's memorandum to Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget, and Administration proposing to abolish the Office of the Assistant Division Chief for Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) and change the reporting relationship of the EROS Data Center from the Assistant Division Chief for EROS to the Division Chief--

"After one year's experience we believe that certain changes in organization structure will greatly improve our operational efficiency by integrating EROS headquarters activities into appropriate functional areas in the National Mapping Division."

"Therefore, to fully integrate EROS program activities into the National Mapping Division's organization and management structure and eliminate overlapping functions and duplications of effort, we propose to abolish the Office of the Assistant Division Chief for EROS, reassign EROS headquarters staff to other appropriate organizational components, and change the reporting responsibility of the EROS Data Center directly to the Division Chief, consistent with that of the Division's other field centers."

12. October 26, 1983

The revision of 120DM6 does not mention an EROS Office or program. In the Objectives (Chapter 1.2) it does say that "The broad objectives of the Geological Survey include . . . preparing and providing . . . remotely sensed information to meet multipurpose Federal, State, and public national needs . . ." In Chapter 1.3, Functions, it states further that the Survey " . . . develops applications of remotely sensed data and imagery acquired from spacecraft and aircraft to the

mapping, earth science, and resource and environmental inventory and management responsibilities of the Department of the Interior;" but neither in Chapter 2, Organization Structure, nor in Chapter 6, National Mapping Division, is there any mention of the EROS Office, EROS program, or any Departmental remote sensing functions. In Chapter 6.3.A. Field Centers, there is the following statement:

"The EROS Data Center is responsible for developing and demonstrating applications of remotely sensed data acquired from spacecraft and aircraft, developing basic criteria for remotely sensing Earth features and coordinating with other agencies on basic data and image requirements, product formats, and sensor system configurations; conducting and sponsoring research in the application of remotely sensed and other types of spatial data to earth science problems. The EROS Data Center is the principal storage, reproduction, and dissemination facility for aerial photography and satellite imagery. Satellite imagery (Landsat data) archiving, processing and distribution are performed under a reimbursable agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)."

Chapter B, which gives the responsibilities of the Chiefs of Field Centers, gives only NMD responsibilities.