You are cordially invited to attend the
Center for Intelligence and Security Research
Seminar Series
Mr. Joseph Caddell, Jr.
Tuesday, April 24, 2018
UTEP Library –Collaboration Hub (1st Floor)
12:00 p.m.

Corona Over Cuba, 1962: The Missile Crisis and the Early Limitations of Satellite Imagery Intelligence

In the autumn of 1962, two weeks before U-2 aerial photographs confirmed Soviet deployments of nuclear missiles in Cuba, the US intelligence community attempted to image the island with the Corona spy satellite. Insufficient image resolution and extensive cloud cover, however, prevented this photography from providing solid evidence confirming or denying the presence of offensive missiles. This event - previously unaddressed either by Missile Crisis or Corona scholars - illustrates both the promise and the limits of early satellite imagery intelligence. It further provides insight into the early imagery tasking and coordination process and demonstrates needs that drove development of national satellite reconnaissance in the years that followed. The author will present his research findings on this topic—which were published as a feature article in the April 2016 edition of the journal Intelligence and National Security (and honored as that journal’s 2016 “Article of the Year”)—and briefly discuss the research process and some of its pitfalls and idiosyncrasies.

Joseph Caddell, Jr. is the Arthur C. Lundahl Chair of Geospatial Intelligence on the faculty of the National Intelligence University in Bethesda, MD, where he teaches courses on intelligence collection, geospatial intelligence, and intelligence history. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he holds an MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University. He has published work in Intelligence and National Security, the American Intelligence Journal, the Geospatial Intelligence Review, Studies in Intelligence, and War on the Rocks. Mr. Caddell was recently recognized by the International Association For Intelligence Education (IAFIE) as the 2017 IAFIE Instructor of the Year.

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