

Title: SPY AGENCY FINDS SPARE BILLIONS
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WASHINGTON (AP) - The government's spy satellite agency had more than \$2 billion in unspent money last year and now it is helping pay for the Bosnia troop deployment and other defense programs, auditors have discovered.

The audit by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense found a larger pool of unspent funds than had been previously reported from the accounts of the secret National Reconnaissance Office, a congressional staffer familiar with the inquiry said today.

The NRO runs the government's spy satellite and electronic eavesdropping operations. The New York Times reported on the overrun in today's editions.

NRO officials told auditors they were unaware of the extent of the unspent money, but said they typically get extra funds because even a single satellite launch failure can put the agency over its.

Sens. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said \$820 million of the unspent money will pay for U.S. military operations in Bosnia.

Early last year the amount of the NRO overrun was reported at about \$1 billion. Later the figure escalated to \$1.5 billion.

"Apparently no funds were lost to the government and no funds were spent on items different than those either the Congress or the administration intended," Specter and Kerrey said in a Joint statement. "But as long as all this spending authority sat in NRO's accounts, it couldn't be used by other agencies of the government or to reduce the debt."

Specter and Kerrey said Pentagon and CIA auditors worked for months to determine the amount of unspent money.

"In the course of this work, it became apparent that the NRO's top managers themselves had no idea of the extent of the forward funding," the two lawmakers said.

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