(U) YRS GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

(S//SI//REL) Next year, the Yakima Research Station will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its Initial Operating Capability! On 4 May 1973, YRS received certification and began secure teletype communications with Ft. Meade over a 75-baud orderwire. Established under the ECHELON program to collect and process INTELSAT communications during the height of the Cold War, the station’s mission has continually evolved to stay relevant and focused, but YRS has always had a leading role in enabling the Agency to understand and exploit developing communications technology. Planning is underway to recognize the four decades of contributions YRS has made to the cryptologic enterprise. Please watch The Northwest Passage and other NSA media venues for news and events relating to the anniversary celebration in 2013. YRS alumni and friends will be invited both to share memories of serving at this unique site and to attend a reunion event in the spring. If you had a tour at YRS in the last 40 years, or know of someone who did, please share the news! We welcome you to share your stories and memories of YRS ~ please use the following link for our YRS Journal.

(U) DID YOU KNOW?

(U) The three longest floating bridges in the world are in Washington State. The Governor Albert D. Rosellini Bridge (formerly Evergreen Point Floating Bridge) is the longest, extending 7,580 feet across Washington’s second largest lake, Lake Washington. Completed in 1963, the entire bridge spans nearly three miles, totaling 15,580 feet in length. Consisting of a drawspan in addition to the floating sections, the Rossellini Bridge is the second floating bridge to cross Lake Washington. The first, Lake Washington Floating Bridge (today the Lacey V. Murrow Memorial Bridge), is the second longest in the world and was the largest floating structure ever built at its construction in 1940. It directs Interstate 90, whereas Rosellini Bridge extends SR 520. When it opened, the Rosellini bridge had an intended daily capacity of 65,000 vehicles. Today, however, nearly 115,000 vehicles cross the bridge, creating large rush-hour bottlenecks and prompting the phrase, “anything but the 520 bridge.”