

KG-13 OBTAINED FOR THE MUSEUM

David Hamer

NCMF Acquisitions Committee Vice-Chairman

A U.S. KG-13 PONTUS electronic key generator has been donated to the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (NCMF) by Mr. Bill Rhoads of Lexington, Kentucky. The foundation is grateful for this act of generosity on the part of Mr. Rhoads.

Mr. Rhoads is the President of Intellicom, Inc., a company specializing in technical surveillance countermeasures, and has over thirty years of experience in electronics, including radio and ECM. His service in the U.S. Navy included a tour of duty at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia followed by civilian duty in the CIA's Office of Communications. Bill is also a "ham" radio enthusiast and while pursuing this last interest acquired the KG-13, some time ago, at the famed annual "hamfest" held in Dayton, Ohio. For the past few years it has languished in the Rhoads' garage where it became identified as "...the thing under the blanket..." - a term coined by Mrs. Rhoads and frequently preceded by the phrase: "When are you going to get rid of...?"

Earlier this year Bill decided to look for a good home for the KG-13. His search drew the attention of the NCMF acquisitions Committee Vice-Chairman, David Hamer, and after consultation with the Curator, Jack Ingram, to confirm the Museum's interest in this item and some negotiation between the parties involved, Bill agreed to donate the KG-13 to NCMF—who would then transfer ownership to NCM.

On 19 July 2004, Bill delivered the device to Colony 7 Road where he was met by Jack Ingram and Rick Henderson of the NCM. The foundation was represented by NCMF President, Maj. Gen. John E. Morrison, Jr. USAF (Ret.) and Dr. Hamer.

(A description of "our" KG-13, along with a number of photographs, may be found on the web page at <http://webhome.idirect.com/~jproc/crypto/kg13.html>.)



Dr. Hamer with Gen. Morrison and donor Bill Rhoads

