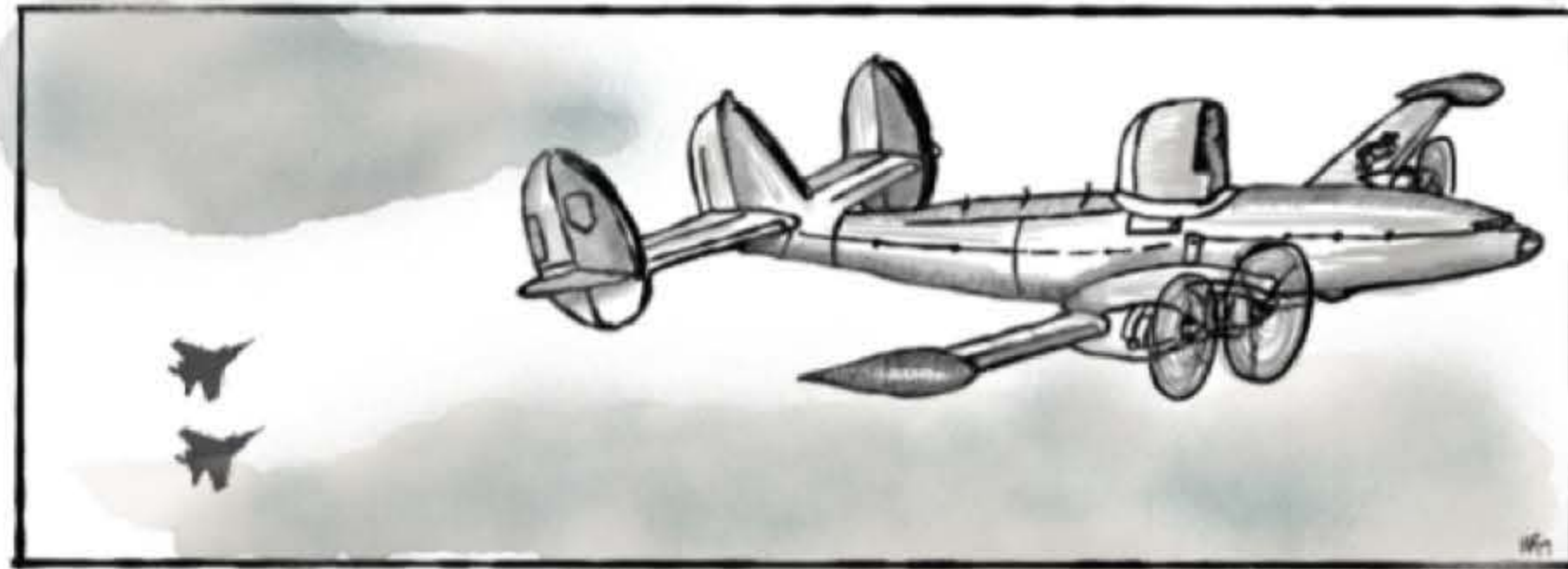




THE 1960s WERE A TIME OF FREQUENT INTERNATIONAL CRISES, AND THE NATION'S LEADERS INVARIABLY TURNED TO NSA FOR INFORMATION AND SECURITY SUPPORT IN MANAGING THEM.



IN THE LATE 1960s AT NSA, MG JOHN MORRISON, USAF, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, HAD TO COLLATE THE INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR THESE CRISES; THIS WAS GENERALLY AVAILABLE FROM ONE OF SEVERAL "WATCH CENTERS."



ON APRIL 15, 1969, NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE PLANE, AN EC-121, WHEN IT WAS 50 MILES FROM THEIR TERRITORY

HAVE ANYTHING ON CHINA?

WHAT'S THE LATEST ON NORTH KOREA?



CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT...?

THE CRISIS INVOLVED THE INTERESTS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES, SO GENERAL MORRISON AND HIS STAFF HAD TO CONSULT MANY WATCH CENTERS TO GET THE INFORMATION WANTED.

EVEN THOUGH TIME MATTERED IN THIS CRISIS IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT FOR GENERAL MORRISON TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION DECISION MAKERS NEEDED



THIS IS A HECKUVA WAY TO RUN CRISIS RESPONSE



MORRISON TOOK HIS CONCERNS TO THE NSA DIRECTOR AND PROPOSED CONSOLIDATING ALL THE WATCH CENTERS AT NSA INTO A SINGLE OFFICE THAT COULD PROVIDE A TIMELY AND RAPID RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR CRISIS INFORMATION.



THE IDEA WAS A SOLID ONE, BUT THERE WERE OBSTACLES



CAN WE AFFORD TO DO THIS? WHERE CAN WE FIND ENOUGH SPACE? ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE AWAY MY AUTHORITY?



MORRISON OVERCAME THE PROBLEMS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED, AND ON FEBRUARY 21, 1973, THE NATIONAL SIGINT (NOW SECURITY) OPERATIONS CENTER OPENED; IT HAS BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, NOT JUST TO NSA, BUT TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, EVER SINCE.

