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HANDLE VIA BYEMAN

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BISON INFO DITTO.

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CHANNELS ONLY  
GAMBIT HEXAGON

KUBISON FOR [REDACTED] INFO TO COL MCCHEKSTIAN, [REDACTED]  
KWDITTO FOR [REDACTED]

SUBJ: ASSESSMENTS OF GAMBIT AND HEXAGON PERFORMANCE

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DEVELOP LAUNCH STRATEGIES AND SCHEDULES FOR FLYING OUT THE REMAINING GAMBIT AND HEXAGON VEHICLES. OUR DEADLINE FOR A MEMO ON THIS SUBJECT IS EARLY SEPTEMBER. AS A SOURCE OF CRITICALLY IMPORTANT INPUT DATA WE HAVE BEEN COUNTING ON PROGRAM A TO BE ABLE TO ASSESS SUCH IMPORTANT FACTORS AS THE FOLLOWING:

- A. AREA COVERAGE AND IMAGE QUALITY AS A FUNCTION OF ALTITUDE
- B. QUALITY-QUANTITY TRADEOFFS BETWEEN THE USE OF SO-315 AND SO-112 IN HEXAGON.
- C. QUALITY-QUANTITY TRADEOFFS BETWEEN THE USE OF SO-112 AND SO-209 IN GAMBIT.
- D. TIME OF YEAR OF LAUNCH VERSUS IMAGE QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION.
- E. DISTRIBUTION OF HEXAGON COVERAGE AS A FUNCTION OF ALTITUDE AND OF OBLIQUITY CONSTRAINTS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE IRARS REVIEW OF THE GAMBIT AND HEXAGON NIIRS PROBABILITY PREDICTORS HAS BEEN DELAYED. THE STAFF IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE LARGE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT HAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. ALSO, FOR THE PREDICTIONS TO BE CREDIBLE AND ACCEPTABLE, WE MUST HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASON FOR THE APPARENT DROP IN NIIRS DURING RECENT HEXAGON MISSIONS AND THE APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE GRD DISTRIBUTION PREDICTED FOR MISSION 4350 AND THE NIIRS DISTRIBUTION REPORTED BY NPIC.

3. PLEASE PROVIDE, BY 1 AUG AN INDICATION OF YOUR ABILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS LISTED ABOVE AND THE DATES FOR MEETING NEEDS NOT ACHIEVABLE NOW.

REVW: 25 JULY 2000

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CONTROL SYSTEM

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IART  
DECLASSIFIED ON: 10 JANUARY 2013