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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2000 10:25 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: draft: Great Bear info for OCC

(b)(3)

classification: ~~SECRET//BYEMAN//X1~~

I had an inspiration (scary)!
How about providing the information below for Office of Corporate Communications, as potential press release? It takes focus completely off the specific mission (which is secret), and instead touts our unclassified relationship with Cub Run Elementary. To me, this is the cleanest cover story we could have, plus positive publicity for the NRO.

We do expect to see added media attention, for 2 reasons: a) the cartoon-like fairing logo is quite different from typical masculine logos, and b) we are the next launch on the east coast.

Unclassified information about Great Bear Logo & Daniel M. Potter:

About the Great Bear logo:

The NRO has a long-standing volunteer relationship with a local elementary school, Cub Run Elementary in Chantilly, Virginia. For this NRO launch, Cub Run was asked to create the theme & logo that would fly on the Atlas IIAS fairing. The school chose Ursa Major constellation, often represented as a bear, and held a logo contest for the students. The Great Bear logo was created by Samantha Wingo, a Cub Run student, and is her contest-winning interpretation of Ursa Major. (U)

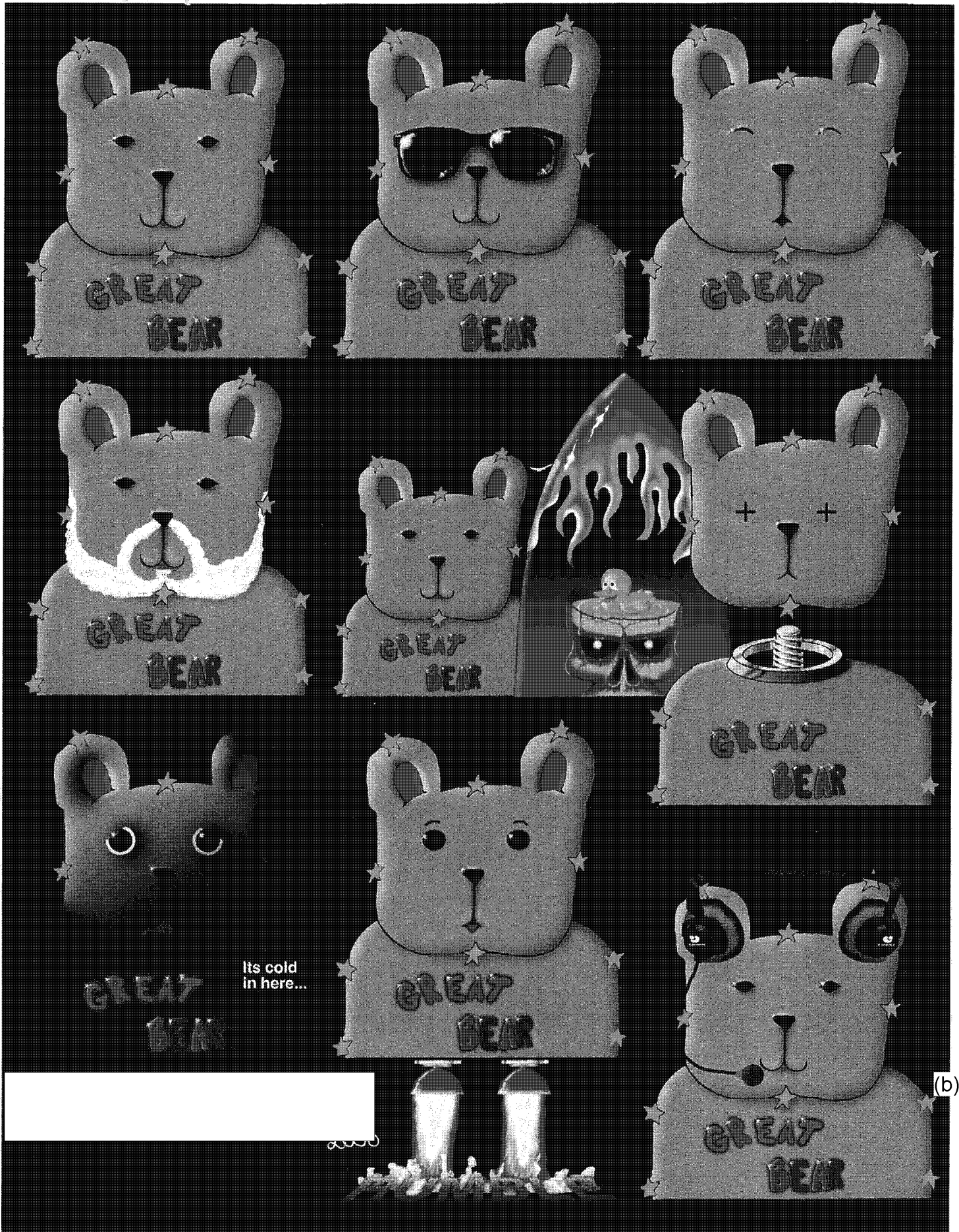
About Dan Potter:

Daniel M. Potter was a long-time NRO employee who is honored by this launch. The Great Bear logo was designed by a student from the Cub Run Elementary School where Dan did volunteer work, representing the NRO. The NRO supports Cub Run Elementary, in Chantilly, Virginia, with activities such as tutoring & giving special presentations about space. (U)

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CL By: [Redacted] (b)(3)
CL Reason: 1.5(c)
DECL ON: X1
Derived From: NRO CG 4.0 14 Oct 95
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Its cold
in here...

(b)(6)

National Reconnaissance Office
Office of Corporate Communications (OCC)

Releasable Information

Great Bear Launch
Dedicated to Daniel Potter
Monday, 20 March 2000

On 20 March 2000, the National Reconnaissance launch (NRO) will be dedicated to Daniel M. Potter, deceased.

Mr. Potter was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency assigned to the NRO as an engineer. He was an advocate and supporter of the NRO Cub Run Partners in Education Program.

Dan tutored students at Cub Run Elementary on a regular basis. He inspired and motivated students to achieve in math and science.

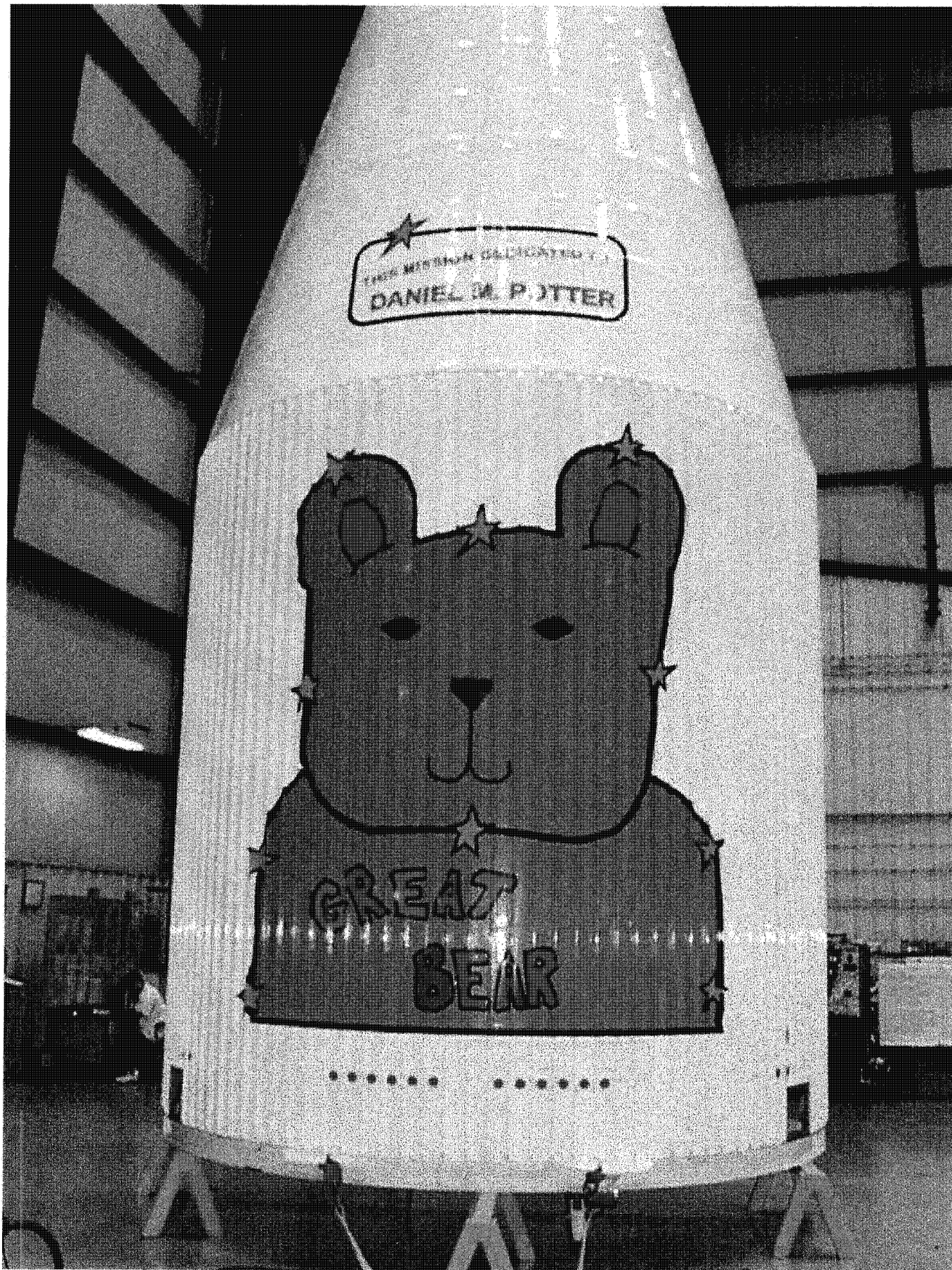
In memory of Dan, his dedication to the students, and education; the NRO Cub Run Partnership held a launch logo design contest.

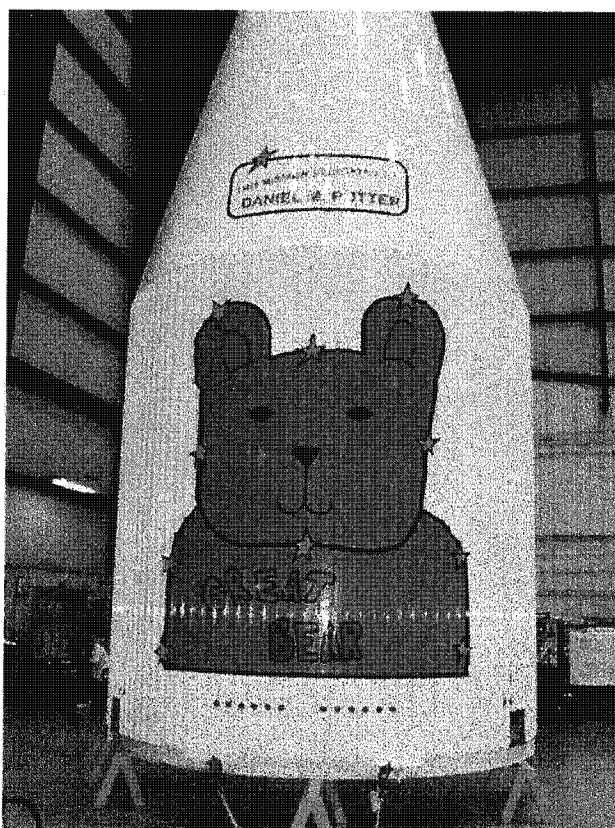
The Ursa Major constellation - *the Great Bear* was selected as the design theme for the logo. The Great Bear complimented Cub Run's mascot - *the Bear Cub* and symbolized Dan's love for the students and his support of the Partners in Education Program.

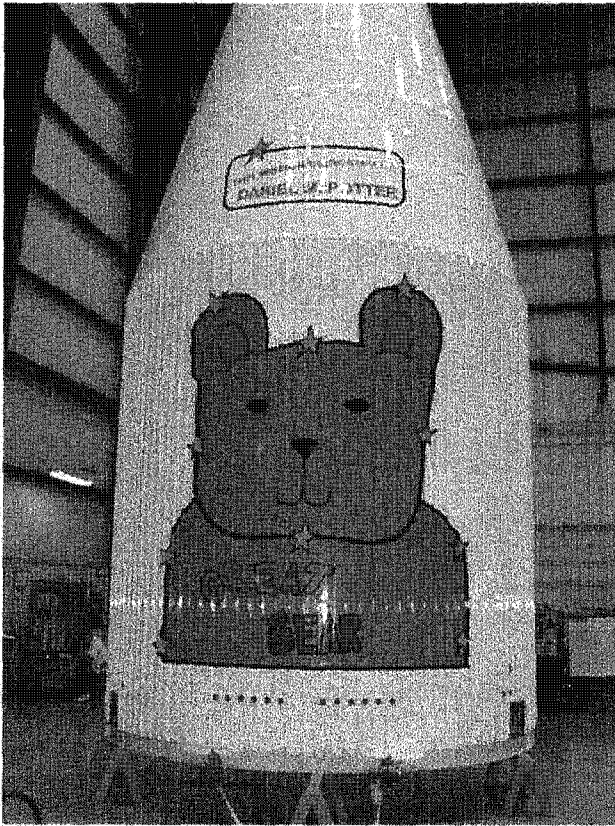
Over 700 entries were received and Samantha Wingo's entry was selected as the winning design. Samantha's design is depicted on the fairing of the NRO launch scheduled for 20 March. She is a 12 year old, 6th grade student at Cub Run Elementary excited to be the first child to have her logo bigger than life painted on a rocket about to soar into space.

On 8 March NRO will present "Go for Launch" at Cub Run to prepare students for what they will see during the launch, the actual stages of a launch. Rocket and satellite models, photographs and launch footage will be used to demonstrate satellite deployment.

After the launch, on 27 March NRO will rebroadcast the launch at Cub Run Elementary for all students to see. Local news print and TV media are invited.







About the Great Bear...

The Great Bear logo represents the MLV-11 mission launch, which will be dedicated to Daniel M. Potter, deceased. The logo will appear on the payload fairing of the Atlas-IIAS rocket that will launch this National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) mission.

Potter was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency assigned to the NRO as an engineer. He was an advocate and supporter of the NRO Cub Run Partners in Education Program. Dan tutored students at Cub Run Elementary on a regular basis. He inspired and motivated students to achieve in math and science.

In memory of Dan, his dedication to the students, and education, the NRO Cub Run Partnership held a launch logo design contest. The Ursa Major constellation—the Great Bear—was selected as the design theme for the logo. The Great Bear complimented Cub Run's mascot—the Bear Cub—and symbolized Dan's love for the students and his support of the Partners in Education Program.

Over 700 entries were received, and Samantha Wingo's entry was selected as the winning design. Samantha's design is depicted on the fairing of the MLV-11 launch. She is a 12 year old, 6th grade student at Cub Run Elementary, and she's very excited to be the first child to have her logo bigger than life painted on a rocket that is about to soar into space.



About Ursa Major...

Atlas-Centaur 157 (AC-157) represents only the second National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) mission on the Atlas booster. The mission, Great Bear, derives its name from the Ursa Major constellation. The seven stars enveloping the rocket represent the Ursa Major formation of stars, which is commonly used as a celestial signpost, directing observers to other stars and constellations throughout the year. Behind the Atlas IAS rises a white Air Force rocket from a blue globe. Flying to the east, it loops around the globe and ascends into the heavens on a tongue of golden flame. The black background, of course, represents the blackness of space and the spirit of adventure of today's space launch team. Harnessing the blackness of space is a red border, signifying the raw power of America's space launch systems.