

"Let me see the program"

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QUESTION: Should the DAMON Program be cancelled?

ANSWER: NASA and the Space Shuttle will be in-line with virtually all space-borne national defense systems for the next decade. The DAMON Program is essential to the transition of these DoD and NRO Programs to the Shuttle. The prime benefits of DAMON are as follows:

FOR THE NRO

- Precedence of STS as intelligence platform
- Establish BYEMAN and DoD security requirements

FOR THE DoD

- Determine STS/spacecraft interface compatibility
- Baseline STS Integration procedures
- Gain STS/man orbital operations experience
- Evaluate orbiter environments
- Utilize and evaluate orbiter support systems
- Incorporate secondary payloads
 - ANARS recently added to baseline

FOR DoD and NASA

- Joint economic planning experience
- Initiate field maintenance concepts
- Establish flight and operation scheduling interfaces
- Establish manned payload interfaces
- Establish library of integration data and lessons learned
 - DoD funded

FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

- Provide significant search gap filler coverage

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DAMON has already provided important contributions to the NRO and ~~the DoD space shuttle efforts. In the area of integration interfaces,~~ DAMON has been a forcing function resulting in the definition of roles and missions of various DoD and NASA organizations. DAMON has thus far proven the viability of a 27-month shuttle integration schedule, rather than the nominal 48-month schedule. In addition, has demonstrated the effective utility of direct Program Office to NASA interfaces.

The DAMON effort has found that the Control Mode preparations at NASA/JSC paved the way for DoD/NASA discussions at the Secret level at Houston. However, there exists no similar infrastructure at NASA/KSC and as a result of recent DAMON meetings at KSC, steps are being taken to implement the required security indoctrination program. Another key security finding uncovered during DAMON integration sessions with NASA is the feeling that the DoD must implement a consistent security policy among all DoD programs which will protect the deployment strategy of our DoD and NRP missions.

DAMON is pioneering efforts to determine the utilization philosophy of the shuttle crewmembers in functioning the payload systems. DAMON is currently studying significant and challenging roles for the Mission Specialist and Payload Specialist operation of the DAMON camera system.

In addition, DAMON has forced the DoD and NASA to address key issues involving the economic planning of the shuttle system. NASA and DoD are now developing the technical and management structure to mix other available cargo elements with DAMON on Shuttle Flight 6. This effort

will lead to efficient utilization of each shuttle flight and a resultant savings of millions of dollars to the county. DAMON has also investigated the feasibility of, and committed to, carrying secondary payloads as part of the DAMON cargo element. Again, the savings can be measured in millions of dollars. Finally, the DAMON Program Office has opened a dialog with other BYEMAN Programs in order to pass on the experiences gained during our initial shuttle integration efforts. We have already developed a data bank of shuttle integration related documentation available at various security levels to appropriate NRO and DoD programs.

If DAMON were cancelled, the program funds of \$16.7M in FY81, \$25.8M in FY82, and \$4.4M in FY83 would be saved. However, only \$7.7M in FY81 and \$6.6M in FY 82 is required to complete the hardware.

The remainder is primarily STS flight costs. In the event of further shuttle delays, the completed DAMON hardware can be stored at no cost for up to one year from its April 1982 delivery date. Therefore, for less than \$15M, we can complete the hardware and integration portions of the DAMON Program and continue to benefit the NRO, DoD, and NASA shuttle programs.

Impacts cannot be measured in money alone. Since the shuttle system represents the single, most important common element of NRO and DoD space efforts, it is essential that the DAMON Program be continued. The alternative, especially in light of recent shuttle schedule delays, will only lead to continued procrastination on all key shuttle issues such as

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flight scheduling, cargo mixing, flight cost strategy, generic versus program peculiar contractors and interfaces, security requirements and implementation strategy, and finally the defense orientation of NASA and the shuttle system itself.

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WORKING MATERIAL

SUMMARY

CONTINUE DAMON AS LONG AS IT IS PLANNED TO USE THE STS FOR NRP/
 DOD MISSIONS. THE LESSONS LEARNED ARE FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN
 DAMON'S COST. DON'T LEARN THE HARD LESSONS OF SECURITY AND
 PROCEDURES WITH A [REDACTED]; THE
 IMPACT OF THE PROBLEMS WOULD BE TOO GREAT. DON'T DISCOUNT
 DAMON'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE SEARCH IMAGERY IN THE NEAR TERM.
 INSURANCE AGAINST HEXAGON [REDACTED] FAILURES DOESN'T COME ANY
 CHEAPER.

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