

WORKING COPY**CONTROL SYSTEM**

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 P 011530Z **ZEL**
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PRIORITY WHIG.

HEXAGON GAMBIT

FOR MR PLUMMER FROM GEN BRADBURN

SUBJECT: REVISED PROCUREMENT DELIVERY DATES FOR
 GAMBIT AND HEXAGON

1. I AM PREPARING TO REDIRECT THE GAMBIT AND HEXAGON
 CONTRACTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRETCH OUT
 OPTIONS SELECTED BY THE JULY EX COM. I HAVE WORKED
 OUT A REVISED SET OF LAUNCH SCHEDULES AND A BACKUP
 PHILOSOPHY WHICH I BELIEVE WILL BE SUITABLE. I WOULD
 LIKE YOUR CONCURRENCE ON THESE KEY ELEMENTS BEFORE
 I GIVE FORMAL DIRECTION TO THE CONTRACTORS.

2. SCHEDULE:

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GAMBIT	HEXAGON	FY
MONTH VEH#	MONTH VEH#	
AUG 4343		75
	OCT 1209	
FEB 4344		
	MAR 1210	
AUG 4345		76
	SEP 1211	
FEB 4346		
	MAR 1212	
AUG 4347		77
	SEP 1213	
FEB 4348		
	APR 1214	
SEP 4349		78
NOV 4350		
	JAN 1215	
JUL 4351		79
OCT 4352		

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 CONTROL SYSTEM

JUL 4353 JAN 1216 80
OCT 4354
JUL 4355 JAN 1217 81

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3. BACKUP CAPABILITY:

EACH GAMBIT AND HEXAGON VEHICLE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LAUNCH SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED LAUNCH DATE. THAT IS, THE CONTRACTORS WILL GO THRU THEIR FINAL ASSEMBLY AND CHECKOUT SEQUENCES JUST SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN THE NEED DATES. THIS WILL PROVIDE REASONABLY GOOD BACKUP FOR SOME CONTINGENCIES AS OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION.

4. LAUNCH STRATEGY:

A. THE BASIC STRATEGY FOR 1978 AND SUBSEQUENT IS TO LAUNCH ONE HEXAGON (WINTER AND SPRING, 150 DAYS) AND TWO GAMBITS (SUMMER AND FALL, 60 DAYS EACH).

B. THERE WILL BE NO OVERLAP BETWEEN GAMBIT AND HEXAGON, BECAUSE BOTH WILL BE IN SUN SYNCHRONOUS ORBITS AND WOULD HAVE SERIOUS SCF CONFLICTS.

C. REACTION IN CASE A HEXAGON FAILS: THE GAMBIT VEHICLES WILL BE PULLED UP AND FLOWN IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER. THE HEXAGON NEXT IN LINE WILL BE FLOWN AS A FALL-WINTER MISSION. THIS SEQUENCE WILL BE CONTINUED WITH HEXAGON.

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REGULARLY FALL-WINTER.

D. STRATEGY ON FAILURE OF SUMMER GAMBIT: CAPABILITY TO REPLACE IN 15 DAYS WITH THE FALL GAMBIT. DO NOT REPLACE THE FALL GAMBIT.

E. STRATEGY ON FAILURE OF FALL GAMBIT. NO REPLACEMENT ACTION.

5. THE LAUNCH DATES AND REPLENISHMENT STRATEGY ARE ILLUSTRATIVE AND QUITE FLEXIBLE. I WOULD LIKE YOUR CONCURRENCE TO PLACE MY CONTRACTORS ON THIS REVISED SCHEDULE AND WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO HAVE EACH VEHICLE READY TO FLY AHEAD OF THIS SCHEDULE. I WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU AT OUR MEETING ON FRIDAY, 2 AUG.

E-2 IMPDET

~~SECRET~~

BT