HANDLE VIA BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

CE Soy 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: HEXAGON Stretch Option in 1976 VS 1978

BACKGROUND

The message opposite is General Bradburn's response to our request of 23 August 1974 at TAB A. Our request addressed the technical and cost effects of:

- A. One HEXAGON system per year starting in 1976.
- Six-month, and 60 to 90-day backup capability.
- C. Longer mission life.
- Integrated HEXAGON/GAMBIT program.
- Fixed launch dates for HEXAGON/GAMBIT with no backup capability available.

General Bradburn's message states that he will NOTE: address items D. and E. in connection with the October budget submission.

DISCUSSION

A summary of General Bradburn's response is:

A. One system per year would allow a one-shift operation and would be compatible with the six-month backup. Based on in-house estimates, this action gives the cost savings at TAB B. These savings do not become significant

HEXAGON GAMBIT KENNEN

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

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until FY 1978, and result largely from the delay of procurement of Block IV.

- B. Increasing the back-up capability to between 60 and 90 days requires more manpower to be available at a cost of \$3M to \$5M per year.
- C. Technical limits on HEXAGON orbital life are as follows:
 - 1. Through Mission 1211 120 days' duration.
- 2. Mission 1212 and up 150 days to 180 days, depending on altitude flown and a series of modifications increasing on-board propellants.

E. In his opinion, film is not the life limiting consumable; however, an all mono mode would be possible by Mission 1213.

From an intelligence point of view, the gaps in search coverage prior to KENNEN would be serious with the one HEXAGON per year rate. Based on the technical considerations stated in the message, search gaps would run 245 days per year prior to the introduction of the longer life HEXAGON systems.

It is possible to develop a HEXAGON stretch-out schedule providing maximum gaps of 120 days per year and saving one vehicle by FY 1978. This approach has not been costed but would probably not differ materially in the near years from that given in General Bradburn's message. A 120-day gap with two GAMBITs during this time might be marginally acceptable to the Intelligence Community if the money saved is worth the drop in resources available.

BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Should you wish to pursue further the early one per year HEXAGON option, we should staff the proposal for an ExCom decision in November 74. However, the Staff position agrees with Gen Bradburn in that the proposed option significantly reduces imagery intelligence collection for very little savings in the near-term (FY-75/76). In addition, such a decision now may preclude later decision flexibility concerning a KENNEN vs HEXAGON area search capability in FY-77 and related studies during FY-75. Hence, the option does not appear promising for further consideration.
- 2. On the other hand, the option to extend HEXAGON life to 180 days is worthy of further investigation in view of the one per year HEXAGON transition objective when KENNEN becomes operational. The program office should therefore include a specific long-life option as an addendum to their budget submission for the November ExCom. Depending on the data and cost impact, this option might be presented to the November ExCom for decision.
- 3. With your concurrence in the above recommendations, I will send the message at TAB \mathbb{C} .

HAROLD P.	WHEELER,	JR.
Colonel,	USAF	
Director		

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HAMDLE VIA BYEMAN CHANNELS
SECTION ONE OF TWO
HEXAGON/GAMBIT
FOR MR. PLUMMER FROM GEN BRADBURN
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF HEXAGON STRETCH EFFECTIVE FY 1976.
REF WHIG / II9 AUG 74, CHARGE 4988 JUN 74 AND 5 SEP 74
TELECON MR. PLUMMER /GEN BRADBURN.
1. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

REF WHIG / 119 AUG 74, CHARGE 4988 JUN 74 AND 5 SEP 74 TELECON MR. PLUMMER ZGEN BRADBURN.

1. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FUNDING IMPACT OF THE OPTION TO REDUCING THE HEXAGON PROGRAM TO ONE LAUNCH PER YEAR COMMENCING IN FY 1976 IS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH P BELOW. THE QUESTION OF HEXAGON MONO OPERATION IS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 4 BELOW. THE HEXAGON/GAMBIT PROJECTS

INTEGRATION AND THE OPTION OF TWO PER YEAR LAUNCH RATE OF BOTH HEXAGON AND GAMBIT REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF WHIG 1119 WILL BE PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR

PAGE 2 CHARGE 7172 T 0 P S E C R E T OCTOBER BUDGET SUBMISSION.
2. TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A. PIPELINE VEHICLE - OUR BASIC GROUND RULES FOR TREATING THE REDUCTION IN MEXAGON LAUNCH RATES TO ONE PER YEAR ARE:

(I) A SIX MONTH BACKUP CAPABILITY

(2) IN THE EVENT THE BACKUP IS USED, THE CAPABILITY TO MOVE ALL SUBSEQUENT LAUNCHES SIX MONTHS EARLIER AND MAINTAIN A ONE PER YEAR LAUNCH PATE FROM THE LAUNCH DATE OF THE CALL-UP VEHICLE.

(3) A REDUCTION FROM A TWO SHIFT TO A ONE SHIFT OPERATION AT THE INTEGRATING FACILITY WITH RESULTING INCREASE OF THE TIME SPAN FOR SYSTEM LEVEL TESTING FROM THE PRESENT 12 MONTHS TO 24.

UNDER THESE GROUND RULES, THE MANPOWER LEVELS
REQUIRED BY THE INTEGRATING AND ASSOCIATE CONTRACTORS

REQUIRED BY THE INTEGRATING AND ASSOCIATE CONTRACTORS
IN SUPPORT OF THE INTEGRATION EFFORT CAN BE REDUCED
TO ONE-SHIFT LEVELS. THIS COUPLED WITH THE INCREASED
TEST FLOW SPAN OF 24 MONTHS WILL SUPPORT A 6 MONTH BACKUP CAPABILITY AT NO INCREASED COSTS. IF IT IS

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PAGE 3 CHARGE 7172 TOPSECRET DESIRED TO SHORTEN THE BACKUP CAPABILITY FROM SIX MONTHS TO THREE MONTHS OR LESS, ADDITIONAL MANPOWER MUST BE RETAINED FOR THE REQUIRED ACCELERATION EFFORT IN THE EVENT OF BACKUP VEHICLE CALL-UP. OUR ESTIMATE OF INCREASED COSTS TO PROVIDE A TWO TO THREE MONTH BACKUP CAPABILITY IS BETWEEN \$3 AND \$5 MILLION PER YEAR FOR FY 75 THRU FY 30.

B. INCREASED ORBIT LIFE

(1) MISSION LENGTH BASED UPON CURRENTLY APPROVED BASELINE.

(A) SV-9, 10 AND IL: MAXIMUN ACTIVE ON-ORBIT LIFE FOR THESE VEHICLES IS 120 DAYS EACH BASED UPON POTENTIAL FAILURE OF PYRO AND LIFEBOAT BATTERY.

(B) SV-12 AND SUBSEQUENT: VEHICLE CAPABILITY IS

AT LEAST 150 DAYS.

(2) ORBIT OPTIONS. THE OPERATIONAL LIFE OF THE HEXAGON SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY LIMITED BY AVAILABLE ON BOARD PROPELLANT. THE CURRENT BASELINE IS 3200LBS IN THE ORBIT ADJUST (OA) TANK PLUS 400LBS TOTAL IN FOUR

PAGE 4 CHARGE 7172 T O P S E C R RCS TANKS, BEGINNING WITH SV-9, APPROXIMATELY 100LBS OF ADDITIONAL PROPELLANT WILL BE "STUFFED" INTO THE RCS TANKS. SV-13 AND SV-14 WILL CARRY AN ADDITIONAL 260LBS IN THE OA TANK. STARTING WITH SV-15, A TOTAL OF 4000LBS WILL BE CARRIED IN THE OA TANK. NO FURTHER IN-CREASE IN ON-BOARD PROPELLANT CAPACITY IS CURRENTLY PLANNED. THE FOLLOWING TABLE REFLECTS CASES THAT € CAN BE FLOWN WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM AND THOSE AMTICIPATED WITH PROPELLANT INCREASES PROGRAMMED FOR VEHICLES SV-13 AND SV-15. Ć. DAYS HP(SV-9-SV-12) HP(SV-132SV-14) HP(SV-15 & SUBSEQUENT) 90 82 82 82 12.2 86 85 83 Œ. 150 91# 89 36 189 95# 93 91 # SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS OF PARA 28(1) ABOVE (3) FURTHER POSSIBLE INCREASES IN PROPELLANT CAPACITY ARE OUTLINED BELOW: CHAMSE EFFECTIVITY DELTA PROP DELTA DAY ROM INCREASE COST \$5M

(A) ADD 2 RCS TANKS . SV-13 250LBS 8 ****

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PAGE 5 CHARGE 7172 T O (3) PEDESIGN RCS TANKS SV-14 325LBS(4TANKS) 10 \$ 411 735LBS(6 TANKS) 23 (T) INCREASE OA TANK SV-17 1109LBS 35 \$51 DIAMETER SV-17 (D) LENGTHEN OA TANK 2300LBS THE LAST TWO OPTIONS INVOLVE MAJOR REDESIGN OF THE VEHICLE AFT SECTION. THE LAST OPTION ALSO INVOLVES FACILITY. TRANSPORTER AND LAUNCH BASE MODIFICATIONS. THE COLUMN TITLED "DELTA DAY INCREASE" IS BASED UPON AN SV-8 ORBIT WHERE PROPELLANT USAGE WAS BILBS PER DAY.

PAGE, 6 CHARGE 7172 TOPSECRET

3. THE RESULTS OF OUR IN-HOUSE ASSESSMENT OF DOLLAR IMPACT ARE SHOWN BELOW. THIS DATA WILL BE REFINED AS TECHNICAL ASSUMPTIONS ARE CLEARIFIED AND SUDGET ESTIMATES FOR OUR CURRENT BASELINE ARE RECEIVED FROM THE CONTRACTOR. THE ESTIMATES FOR THE CURRENT BASELINE, ONE HEXAGON PER YEAR STARTING IN FY 1978, ARE NOT CHANGED FROM THOSE IN CHARGE 4988 BUT ARE CONVERTED TO THE NEW FISCAL YEAR BASIS. FOR CONSISTENCY, THE ESTIMATES FOR A PROPOSED PROGRAM STRETCH STARTING IN FY 1976 ASSUME A FOLLOW-ON PROCUREMENT IS DELAYED E-2 IMPDET

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FRICRITY WHIG HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CHANNELS FINAL SECTION OF TWO HEXAGON/GAMB IT

FOR MR. PLUMER FROM GEN BRADBURN

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF HEXAGON STRETCH EFFECTIVE FY 1976. REF: WHIG 1119 AUG 74, CHARGE 4988 JUN 74 AND 5 SEP 74 TELECON MR. PLUMER/CEN BRADBURN.

TWO YEARS. THE RESULTANT FUND REDUCTION IN THE FY 1975 - FY 1980 PERIOD IS CONSIDERED A NOT LESS THAN MRP SAYINGS. OFF SETTING INCREASES IN OTHER PROGRAMS WERE ADDED FOR ALLOCATION CHANGES IN OVERHEAD AND 3080 SUPPORT.

FY 75 FY 76 FY 77 FY 77 (TRANS) 180.4 147.0 CURRENT BASELINE 33.1 122.2 18.8 FOLLOW-ON (ELOCK IV) TOTAL 180.4 147.0 33.1 141.0 PROPOSED STRETCH START FY 76 180.4 145.8 29.9 15.2 FOLLOW-ON GLOCK IV 145.8 29.9 .8 TOT AL 180.4 15.2 INPACT ON OTHERS 6.4 .3 •9 2.4 Ø NRP FUND REDUCTION 19.4

PAGE 2 CHARGE 7172-FY 80 FY 78 FY 79 TOTAL 79.2 81.3 41.7 CLRRENT BASELINE -43.4 647.0 FOLLOW-ON (BLOCK IV) 105.0 145.5 348.6 160.5 146.7 TOTAL 186.9 995.6 PROPOSED STRETCH-START FY 76 123.7 65.9 13.8 707.4 81.3 FOLLOW-ON COLOCK IV 1000.1 Approved for Release: 2025/07/25 C05127304

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TOTAL 100.7 84.7 150.8 807.5 IMPACT ON OTHERS - 7.5 NRP FUND REDUCTION 59.8 62.0 36.1 180.6 4. HEXAGON MONO CAMERA OPERATIONS

A. FILM IS NOT THE LIFE LIMITING CONSUMABLE, THERE-FORE PERFORMING MOND OPERATIONS GRATHER THAN STERED) DOES NOT EXTEND VEHICEL LIFE. FILM IS USED AT A RATE DICTATED BY ANTICIPATED LIFE REMAINING, WEATHER, GROUND TRACE, TARGET ACCESS, PRIORITY, ETC.

B. VEHICEL LIFE IS A DIRECT FUNCTION OF QUANTITY OF PROPELLANT AND THE PARTICULAR OPERIT FLOWN, SINCE,

PAGE 3 CHARGE 7172 TO PSEORET
FOR ANY ONE VEHICLE THE PROFELLANT LOAD IS FIXED,
LIFE MAY BE EXTENDED BY RAISING THE ORBIT. THE OPTIONS
AVAILABLE ARE IDENTIFIED IN PARA 28 ABOVE. ONCE A
MISSION LIFE IS PICKED, FILM USAGE IS PROGRAMMED AT SOME
NOMINAL RATE SUCH THAT (IN THE IDEAL SITUATION) WE RUN
OUT OF FILM WHEN WE RUN OUT OF LIFE.

KII (SV-7 THRU SV-12) SENSOR SUBSYSTEM WAS DESIGNED TO OPERATE IN A MOND MODE WITH ONLY ONE OPTICAL BAR ROTATING. THE INCREASED VEHICAL DISTURBANCES RESULTING FROM THIS TYPE OF MOND OPERATION (ONE OPTICAL BAR AND ONE SUPPLY/TAKE-UP ROTATING) SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE ROS THRUSTER DUTY CYCLE AND CAUSE INCREASED PROPELLANT USAGE. THIS MODIFIED THRUSTER DUTY CYCLE WILL RESULT IN THRUSTER LIFE DEGRADATION BUT THE EXTENT IS UNKNOWN. INCREASED PROPELLANT USAGE IS MINOR (APPROX 240 LBS/MISSION AND COULD BE COMPENSATED FOR BY A ONE AND ONE HALF MM INCREASE IN ORBIT ALTITUDE.

D. PNEUMATICS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE AIR BARS AND FILM PATH PRESSURIZATION FOR BOTH STERED AND MOND

PAGE 4 CHARGE 7172 TO PSECRET

OFERATIONS, A MOND OFERATION CONSUMES THE SAME
QUANTITY OF GAS AS A STEREO OF ASSUMING THE PRESENT
SCAN MODE MIX, THERE IS SUFFICINET PNEUMATICS TO PERFORM
ONLY 750-500 OPERATIONS (STEREO OR MOND) THRU SV-10.
AN ALL MOND MISSION WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 1500
OFERATIONS, EFFECTIVE SV-11 AND UP THE PNEUMATICS SUPPLY
WILL BE DOUBLED, THUS PROVIDING A 1500 OPERATION
CAPABLITY.

E. THE BLOCK III (SV-13 THRU SV-13) SENSOR SUBSYSTEM HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO PERMIT MOND OPERATION WITH BOTH OPTICAL BARS ROTATING AND ONE FILM PATH OPERATING.
THIS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE VEHICAL DISTURBANCE IMPACT OVER THE BLOCK II MOND CAPABILITY. IN ADDITION THE BLOCK III ROS THRUSTERS HAVE BEEN REDESIGNED TO BROW DE INCREASED LIFE. THE INCREASE IN PROSELLANT USAGE FOR THIS MOND APPROVED TO Release: 2025/07/25 C05127304

's INSIGNIFICANT.

F. SUMMARY:

(1) AN ALL MONO MODE MISSION IS NOT FEASIBLE WITH

PAGE 5 CHARGE 7172 TOPSECRET SV-9 AND SV-10 DUE TO PNEUMATICS LIMITATIONS. (2) THE POTENTIAL FOR AN ALL MOND MODE MISSION EXISTS FOR SV-11 AND SV-12 WITH A ONE AND ONE-HALF NM ALTITUDE FENALTY AND A MISSION DURATION UNCERTAINTY DUE TO THRUSTER DEGRADATION. B) AN ALL MOND MODE MISSION IS FEASBILE FOR SV-13 AND UP.

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CHARGE INFO VAHOO. HEXAGON/GAMBIT/SECUR

FOR GEN BRADBURN FROM GEN KULPA/MR.

1. TO MAXIMIZE RETURN ON THE NRP INVESTMENT, MR. PLUMMER
HAS REQUESTED SAFSP DEVELOP ESTIMATES FOR REDUCING THE
HEXAGON PROGRAM TO ONE LAUNCH PER YEAR COMMENCING IN
FY-76. THIS IS A SEPARATE SUBJECT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE JULY EXCOM DECISION ON THE GAMBIT AND HEXAGON
PROGRAMS. REQUEST YOU DEVELOP A PROCUREMENT, PRODUCTION.
AND OPERATIONAL PLAN IN-HOUSE FOR A ONE-HEXAGON SYSTEM,
ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. PIPELINE VEHICLE - A REALISTIC PIPELINE CONCPT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, I.E., VEHICLE AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO PLANNED LAUNCH. ALSO, THE

wana cey

r-mandaga

PAGE 2 WHIG 1119 S E C R E T PROS AND CONS AND ADDED COST REQUIRED FOR A 60 TO 90 BACK-UP CAPABILITY SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

B. ON-ORBIT LIFE - CONSIDER VARIOUS WAYS OF INCREASING THE ORBITAL LIFETIME OF THE VEHICLE SUCH AS KIGHER ALTITUDE, OR SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS.

C. HEX/GAMBIT PROGRAM INTEGRATION - EMPHASIS SHOULD

BE PLACED ON INTEGRATING ALL ASPECTS OF THE TWO PROGRAMS

CONSISTENT WITH LAUNCH SCHEDULES AND PIPELINE CAPABILITIES.

2. IN VIEW OF THE REDUCED HEXAGON AND GAMBIT LAUNCH RATES

AND THE CONTINUING REQUIREMENT TO RETAIN A PIPELINE CAPA
BILITY, IT APPEARS THAT SIGNIFICANT COSTS MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE

TO THE REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN EXTENDED PIPELINE CAPABILITIES

FOR BOTH SYSTEMS. AS AN OFF-SETTING TRADEOFF AGAINST THE FURTHER

REDUCTION IN THE HEXAGON LAUNCH RATE, REQUEST YOU EXAMINE

AN AUDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE. THIS ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT INVOLVES

ESTABLISHING FIXED DELIVERY AND LAUNCH DATES FOR BOTH THE

HEXAGON AND GAMBIT PROGRAM AT TWO PER YEAR, HENCE, IF A

"ATLURE SHOULD OCCUR, THE RESULTING GAP IN COVERAGE WOULD

BE ACCEPTED. THIS APPROACH SHOULD ALLOW MORE EFFECTIVE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED GAMBIT/HEXAGON PROGRAM

COMCEPT.

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BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

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COST TABLE FOR ONE HEXAGON PER YEAR STARTING IN FY-76

	<u>FY-75</u>	<u>FY-76</u>	(Trans) <u>FY-77</u>	<u>FY-77</u>	<u>FY-78</u>	<u>FY-79</u>	<u>FY-80</u>	TOTAL
CURRENT BASELINE FOLLOW-ON (BLOCK IV)	180.4	147.0	33,1	122.2 18.8	79.2 81.3	41.7 105.0	43.4 143.5	647.0 348.6
TOTAL	180.4	147.0	33.1	141.0	160.5	146.7	186.9	995.1
STRETCH IN FY-76	180.4	145.8	29.9	115.2	100.7	65.9	69.5	707.4
FOLLOW-ON	-	-	-	-	-	18.8	81.3	100.1
(BLOCK IV) TOTAL	180.4	145.8	29.9	115.2	100.7	84.7	150.8	807.5
IMPACT OF STRETCH ON OTHER PRO- GRAMS	-	.3	.8	6.4	.= *	: 1999	-	7.5
NET NRP FUND REDUCTION	0	. 9	2.4	19.4	59.8	62.0	36.1	180.6

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HEXAGON FOR F. HOFMANN/R. ANDERSON FROM H	. WHEELER/	.RD-2	
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REFERENCE: CHARGE 7172, 171800Z	SEP /4	SS-7 EX	EG
REQUEST YOU SUBMIT A HEXAGON LONG	-LIFE OPTION AS AN	\$\$-2 AD	MIN X
ADDENDUM TO YOUR OCTOBER BUDGET S	HIRMTSSION THIS OPTION	\$3-3	
ADDINGON TO TOOK OCTOBER BONGET O	obsitopion. This office	33"	
SHOULD BE YOUR CHOICE AMONG THOSE	DESCRIBED IN THE	\$8-5	
REFERENCE TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM COST	/RISK IMPLEMENTATION	\$3-7	X
FOR APPROXIMATELY 180 DAYS OF ON-	ORBIT LIFE EFFECTIVE		
SV-15, ASSUMING AN OCTOBER 1977 L	AINOU F.9 TMODET	COMP	X
SV-13, ASSURING AN OCTOBER 1977 L	Auton. 6-2 Preper.	COMM	
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