

~~TOP SECRET~~HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MURPHY, SS-4

SUBJECT: HEXAGON Block IV Study

Mr. Plummer has directed that a study to support HEXAGON Block IV planning be conducted within SAFSP/SAFSS, starting immediately. Since this study is not to conflict with the Search Performance Study, it should be closely held within the Staff. As indicated in the attached message, we are to send revisions to the collection and hardware requirements to SP by 6 March 1975. Request you develop these revisions in coordination with SS-7.

*Robert A. Rosenberg*  
ROBERT A. ROSENBERG  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Director

Atch

cc: SS-6

HEXAGON

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEMCLASSIFIED BY BYEMAN - 1 EXEMPT FROM  
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE-  
GORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.~~TOP SECRET~~

Approved for Release: 2025/06/18 C05137264

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FOR MAJ/GEN BRADBURN FROM COL <del>WHEELER</del> <sup>ROSENBERG</sup> /																																			
SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR HEXAGON BLOCK IV																																			
1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MR. PLUMMER AND YOURSELF ON 24 FEB, REQUEST YOU INITIATE A PLANNING STUDY FOR THE HEXAGON BLOCK IV. ALTHOUGH AN EXCOM DECISION FOR GO-AHEAD OF BLOCK IV IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE JULY 1977, THE PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR THAT DECISION SHOULD PROCEED NOW TO INSURE THAT EARLY PRELIMINARY DECISIONS ARE MADE ON TIME AND THAT NECESSARY DATA IS AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED.																																			
2. TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES, SCHEDULE VARIATIONS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS SHOULD BE ESTIMATED SEPARATELY FROM THE FISCAL GUIDANCE TO MAINTAIN LOW VISIBILITY ON THE ACTIVITY. ITEMS FOR BLOCK IV CONSIDERATION SHOULD																																			
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LT COL HUTCHISON <i>Mr. Murphy</i>		<i>Rosenberg</i>																																	
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INCLUDE DESIRABILITY AND IMPACT OF CONTRACT COMPETITION 7  
FOR SEGMENTS OF THE HEXAGON SYSTEM WHERE SIGNIFICANT  
COST REDUCTION IS POSSIBLE THROUGH SIMPLIFICATION.  
CHANGES TO CURRENT CAPABILITY, INCLUDED REDUCED COMPLEXITY,  
SHOULD BE INCLUDED, RECOGNIZING THAT THE GOAL OF THIS  
EXERCISE IS TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT  
REDUCTIONS IN PROJECTED PROGRAM COSTS. THE WHIG STAFF  
WILL PROVIDE A LIST OF REVISIONS TO THE CURRENT <sup>CAPABILITY</sup> REQUIREMENTS  
BY 6 MARCH 1975. YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN THIS AREA ARE  
SOLICITED; THE WHIG/WAHOO STAFF WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR  
SUGGESTIONS FOR REQUIREMENTS REVISIONS THROUGHOUT THE  
STUDY. IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE LONG TERM COST TRADE-OFF  
IMPLEMENTATIONS, COST ESTIMATES SHOULD COVER A TEN-YEAR  
PERIOD COVERING ANY POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
OPERATION OF BLOCK IV.

3. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY PLAN BY EARLY APRIL  
TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF DECISION MILESTONE CHANGES AND  
POTENTIAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS BEGINNING IN FY-76 OR FY-77.  
A COMPLETED PROGRAM PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE  
SUBMITTED BY LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. AT THE PRESENT  
TIME THIS PLANNING DATA IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE DNRO'S

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CONSIDERATION THEREFORE, ACTIVITIES AND CONFIGURATIONS  
RELATED TO THIS EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED OR DISCUSSED  
IN ANY OF THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STUDIES.  
E-2 IMPDET

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