

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

25 March 1971

Dr. Martin, EOB:

Attached is a copy of the document which you requested.


Captain, USN

Atch
BYE 12698/71, Cy 1
w/Chart

~~TOP SECRET~~

SS-7

PRO AG 6

HEXAGON BACKUP THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1972

The accompanying schedule chart illustrates how the remaining CORONA inventory and GAMBIT HIGHERBOY launches can provide search capability backup for HEXAGON through September 1972. The following information is provided as additional explanation:

- A worst case of no HEXAGON success through Mission 1206 is assumed.
- The first three planned HEXAGON launches (Red) are backed up by CORONA (Green). CORONA 1114 will be launched 24 March; 1115 can be launched as early as 30 June, effectively bracketing the first HEXAGON. It is planned that CORONA 1116 and 1117 will be counted down to R-7 as backup to HEXAGON 1202 and 1203, respectively.
- GAMBIT payload availability is shown in Purple with projected launches in Blue. Payloads will be available to support normal missions and, in addition, two HIGHERBOY missions as backup to HEXAGONS 1204 and 1205. The pipeline is lost with the launch of HIGHERBOY #2. By accelerating the delivery of GAMBIT payload #39 by one month, a third HIGHERBOY could back up HEXAGON 1206. Delivery of GAMBIT systems #40 and subsequent would then have to be accelerated about two to three months to support the on-going GAMBIT schedule and eventually recover the pipeline.
- Decision dates associated with the above are shown at the bottom of the chart. HIGHERBOY Kits #1 and #2 are already under procurement. They will be available to meet the launch dates shown. (HIGHERBOY #1 could be as early as November 1971.) A decision is required four months prior to any HIGHERBOY launch to permit the kit to be installed in the payload. A decision to procure HIGHERBOY Kit #3 and effect any acceleration of GAMBIT systems is not required until September 1971.
- Any degree of HEXAGON success serves to relax the situation. For example, only two successful HEXAGON buckets in the first six missions would obviate HIGHERBOY #3 and any delivery accelerations.

Atch
Chart

~~CORONA GAMBIT HEXAGON~~

HANDLE VIA **BYEMAN**
CONTROL SYSTEM

BYE 12698/71
Cy 2 of 2
Pg 1 of 1

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