

~~SECRET//BYE//XT~~



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~~(S//BYE)~~ GAMBIT bucket returns to Earth after 20 years in orbit

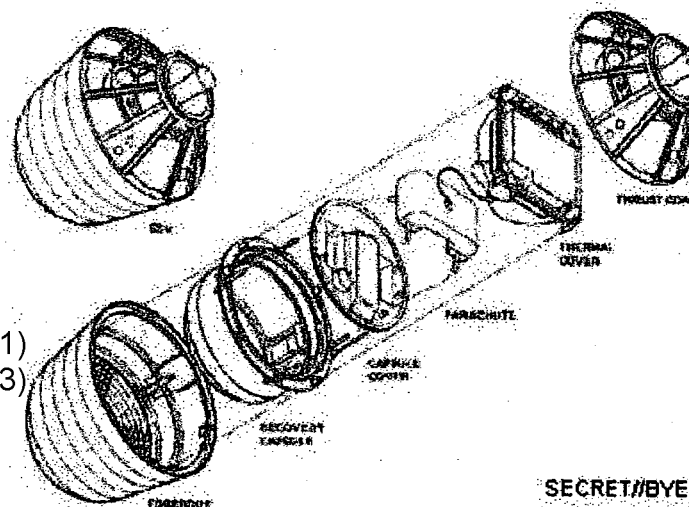
~~(S//BYE)~~ The bucket used to return exposed film from an imagery satellite has returned to earth after 20 years of orbiting in space. The KH-8 bucket from M4352 GAMBIT, or whatever was left of it, finally splashed down in the South Atlantic on Sept. 28 at 10 p.m. EST after much speculation as to when it would drop.

~~(S)~~ "We knew it would drop between Sept. 25 - 28. (b)(1) (b)(3)

_____ said Capt _____ "As the reentry drew closer, the location started to converge on a South Atlantic-Antarctica regional impact."

~~(S//FK)~~ The bucket's fall into deep waters represents good news for the NRO as it eliminates the need to conduct an emergency search and recovery effort for surviving debris and film. "We believe the bucket landed in water and sank immediately," said _____. As for the film, "the duration of orbit and the reentry process might have led to substantial degradation of the film," said _____ of NRO's IMINT Directorate. "And during reentry, much, if not all of the film might have burned."

~~(S//BYE)~~ The bucket came to NROC's attention during the Office of Policy's work on the



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Interest Items
NRO Family Day
 Saturday, Oct. 19,
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00
 p.m. at Westfields

NRO Blood Drive -
 Oct. 16-17, 8:00
 a.m. - 2 :00 p.m.
Make an
appointment to
donate

NRO Native
American Council
meeting, Oct. 9,
12:00 noon - 1:00
p.m.
NNAC general
council meeting in

(b)(3)

Family Day Lunch
Tickets on sale
Oct. 8-18 in WF
cafeteria
Advance sale
tickets are \$5 adult,
\$3 child (4-7), free
for children 3 &
under. Price
increases by \$2 on
Oct. 19.

(b)(3)

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GAMBIT's declassification proposal. Policy alerted NROC of the potential upcoming reentry in early Aug. 2002. NROC investigated the matter with the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center (CMOC) Space Vault, the center responsible for tracking all objects in space, particularly known NRO debris. CMOC Space Vault identified the bucket and confirmed its reentry.

~~(S)~~ Although CMOC Space Vault monitored the bucket with its Space Surveillance Network radars, the [redacted] infra-red sensors actually observed the bucket's reentry. "Given the bucket debris' relatively small size, [redacted] sensors were able to observe the reentry," said [redacted] Data from the [redacted] sensors were collected and analyzed by the Aerospace Fusion Center.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3) (b)(3)

~~(S)~~ The KH-8 bucket became stranded in space in 1982 when the satellite's newly-designed separation squib malfunctioned. "Initially, we expected to recover the bucket within hours of the malfunction. When that did not occur, we estimated it would take 20 years for it to decay and re-enter the atmosphere," reported the '82 bucket anomaly team.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

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Selected KH-7 and KH-9 film declassified: system names and programmatic details remain classified

In September, NIMA declassified some, but not all, film from the retired NRO film return imagery systems, KH-7 and KH-9. The declassified imagery from these programs was turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration for public release.

Programmatic details of the systems, including

National Disability Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In celebration, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity/ Military Equal Opportunity (OEEO/ME) invites all NRO personnel to take part in the following upcoming events:

American with Disabilities Act Training with instructor and **Attorney David Fram** from the National Employment Law Institute on **Oct. 15** from 8 a.m. to noon. For more