

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IART  
DECLASSIFIED ON: 10 JANUARY 2013

*Red*  
~~TOP SECRET~~  
Handle Via BYEMAN  
CHANNELS ONLY

ITN 0878  
121217 RR NKN RUEIWCA5598 1470132 00054-XXXX--RUXPDAA.  
ZNY XXXXX NKN ZNM  
R 260126Z  
BT  
XXXXX

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] -1445  
PASS BISON  
PASS DITTO

~~TOP SECRET~~ 260126Z APR 80 SPECIAL DESIGNEES

CITE [REDACTED] 7195.  
TO: [REDACTED] INFO BISON, DITTO, [REDACTED]  
GAMBIT [REDACTED] HEXAGON  
HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROLS  
TO: [REDACTED] FOR J. D. HILL

FROM: [REDACTED], CHAIRMAN, COMIREX

INFO: BISON FOR COL. L. MCCHRISTIAN AND [REDACTED]

DITTO FOR [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FOR LTCOL. L. CRESS

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY MISSION SUPPORT DATA

1. AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH [REDACTED] AND HEXAGON 1216, THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS EVALUATING A NUMBER OF CONTINGENCY GAMBIT MISSION OPTIONS. THESE INCLUDE (1) A CONVENTIONAL 4351 MISSION, (2) A HIGH-ALTITUDE (E.G. 145 NM) 4351 MISSION, (3) A HIGH-ALTITUDE (E.G. 450 NM) 4352 MISSION AND (4) A DUAL-MODE 4352 MISSION.

2. OUR CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT EACH OF THE GAMBIT MISSION OPTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. OPTIONS 1 AND 2 CAN BE SUPPORTED TODAY BY CAMS BASED ON THE L-20 POSTURE.

B. OPTION 3 AND OPTION 4 IN THE HIGH ALTITUDE MODE:  
1. COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS COULD BE SUBMITTED VIA CAMS ANY TIME AFTER 1 JULY.

2. AN INITIAL MISSION LOAD COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO [REDACTED] ANY TIME AFTER APPROXIMATELY 15 JULY TO SUPPORT AN EARLIEST LAUNCH DATE OF 21 JULY.

3. AUTOMATED ON-ORBIT TASKING WITH CAMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 15 AUGUST, HOWEVER, EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO ACQUIRE THIS CAPABILITY EARLIER. MANUAL TASKING OF AD HOC REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED AFTER LAUNCH WILL BE REQUIRED DURING THIS INTERIM PERIOD. IT IS EMPHASIZED

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DECLASSIFIED BY: CI/ART  
DECLASSIFIED ON: 10 JANUARY 2013

~~TOP SECRET~~  
Handle Via BYEMAN  
CHANNELS ONLY

THAT NO AUDIT TRAIL FOR ON-ORBIT TASKING WILL BE REGISTERED IN CAMS DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN LAUNCH AND THE 15 AUGUST TIMEFRAME.

4. SEARCH MODE REQUIREMENTS MAY ONLY BE TASKED AS 12 X 18 NM WAC CELLS.

5. SATISFACTION PROCESSING AND CROSSFEED TO OTHER IMAGERY SYSTEMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE DECEMBER 1980. HOWEVER, ACCOMPLISHMENT DATA WILL BE PRESERVED.

3. SHOULD THERE BE A DECISION TO FLY A GAMBIT MISSION THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SELECT SPECIFIC MISSION PARAMETERS FROM A FAIRLY WIDE RANGE OF FEASIBLE MISSION PARAMETERS. IMAGE QUALITY WILL BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SELECTION OF THESE PARAMETERS. FOR THIS REASON, WE REQUEST THAT THE NRO PROVIDE NIIRS PREDICTION DATA WHICH IS APPLICABLE FOR A HIGH-ALTITUDE 4351 MISSION AND A HIGH-ALTITUDE 4352 MISSION. THIS DATA SHOULD SHOW THE EFFECT ON QUALITY OF THE FULL RANGE OF ALL SELECTABLE MISSION PARAMETERS (E.G. ALTITUDE, STEREO/MONO, TIME OF YEAR/SUN, AND OBLIQUITY). BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT NEAR-TERM DECISIONS WILL BE REQUIRED RELATIVE TO A GAMBIT MISSION, THIS DATA IS URGENTLY NEEDED. I WOULD APPRECIATE A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE NO LATER THAN 16 MAY AND A FINAL RESPONSE NO LATER THAN 6 JUNE. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF THE NIIRS PREDICTION MODEL COULD BE REVIEWED BY IRARS PRIOR TO ITS BEING FINALIZED.

4. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO CONDUCT SIMULATIONS TO SELECT SPECIFIC MISSION PARAMETERS FOR A CONTINGENCY GAMBIT MISSION. WE WILL IDENTIFY OUR REQUIREMENTS, IF ANY, FOR SIMULATION SUPPORT AT A LATER DATE ONCE THE NEED FOR AND THE OBJECTIVES OF A GAMBIT MISSION ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED. IN THIS REGARD, CAMS COULD SUPPORT A SURVEILLANCE MISSION SIMULATION AT ANYTIME. HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR A HIGH-ALTITUDE SEARCH MISSION SIMULATION COULD NOT BE PROVIDED BEFORE 15 JULY AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

5. WITH REGARD TO HEXAGON ██████████ CONTINGENCY LAUNCH CAPABILITIES, WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE LAUNCH PAD MODIFICATIONS TO BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO MISSION 1218. THESE CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED IN OUR 25 MARCH MEMO TO THE DNRO. I REQUEST THAT ANY NEW AND SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO OPTIONS FOR PERFORMING THESE MODIFICATIONS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US.

6. IF OUR PLANNING RELATIVE TO GAMBIT REQUIREMENTS PROCESSING IS INCONSISTENT WITH NRO PLANNING DATES, I REQUEST THAT YOU IDENTIFY A REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH MY STAFF TO RESOLVE THESE INCONSISTENCIES.

CL BY 368668 RVW 25 APRIL 2000.

~~TOP SECRET~~

BT  
#5598

~~TOP SECRET~~  
Handle Via BYEMAN  
CHANNELS ONLY