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

IMMEDIATE BISON.

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL CHANNELS

BUDGET/GAMBIT/HEXAGON

BISON FOR GEN KULPA/MCCHRISTIAN [REDACTED] FROM J. HILL
SUBJECT: FALL BUDGET GUIDANCE (MESSAGE 1) GAMBIT-HEXAGON

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED DCI PROGRAM DECISIONS AND A REVISED DCI BASIC GUIDANCE LEVEL FOR THE NKP. A COPY OF THIS GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY. IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE EXAMING ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL BE REQUIRED (AND REQUESTED) TO CONSTRUCT A PROGRAM RANKING THAT STAYS WITHIN THE DCI BASIC GUIDANCE LEVEL. THE CURRENT PROGRAM MANAGER'S (DNKO) RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (PMKP) EXCEEDS GUIDANCE BY [REDACTED] IN FY 83 AND FY 84 RESPECTIVELY. IN THE INITIAL SORT OF COST REDUCTION STRATEGIES THE CANCELLATION OR FLYOUT OF THE GAMBIT PROGRAM REQUIRES A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT.

2. TO SUPPORT THIS ASSESSMENT, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FISCAL YEAR FUNDING REQUIRED TO SUPPORT EACH OF FOLLOWING GAMBIT/HEXAGON ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS:

A. ALTERNATIVE 1--LAUNCH DUAL MODE GAMBIT MISSION 4352 IN APRIL 1981 AND TERMINATE PROGRAM BY END OF FY 81 WITHOUT ADDITIONAL LAUNCHES. LAUNCH HEXAGON 1217 IN JULY 1981 AND MAINTAIN HEXAGON PROGRAM ON PRESENT SCHEDULE.

B. ALTERNATIVE 2--MAINTAIN PRESENT GAMBIT LAUNCH SCHEDULE THROUGH FY 81 WITH AT LEAST ONE LAUNCH OF A DUAL MODE VEHICLE IN LATE FY 81 OR EARLY FY 82. TERMINATION OF PROGRAM SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY END OF FY 82. LAUNCH HEXAGON 1217 IN JULY OF 1981 AND MAINTAIN HEXAGON PROGRAM ON PRESENT SCHEDULE.

C. ALTERNATIVE 3--LAUNCH GAMBIT AND HEXAGON ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING REVISED SCHEDULE:

GAMBIT

HEXAGON

51--APR 81 17--MAR 82
52--AUG 81 18--MAR 83
53--DEC 81 19--MAR 84
TERMINATE AFTER VEH 53 20--MAR 85

D. OPTION 1 -- FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 AND 2, IDENTIFY THE DELTA REQUIRED TO DELAY THE LAUNCH OF HEXAGON VEHICLE 20 UNTIL MARCH 1985.

E. OPTION 2--FOR ALTERNATIVE 3, TERMINATE GAMBIT AFTER LAUNCH OF VEH 54 IN APRIL 82. HEXAGON VEHICLE 17 LAUNCH IS MOVED TO JUN 82 WITH NO CHANGE TO REST OF SCHEDULE.

3. IN DEVELOPING THE ABOVE ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS THE FOLLOWING GROUND RULES SHOULD BE OBSERVED:

DISTRIBUTION		
	A	I
SAFOS		
SAFAL		
SAFUSS		✓
SAFSS		✓
EXEC		
L&A		
P&B	✓	
S&T		✓
SAF/SPE		✓
TC		
REGISTRY		
COMM		
RF		✓

A. PROVIDE DETAILS ON ANY COST INCREASES TO OTHER PROGRAMS RESULTING FROM THE PROPOSED GAMBIT LAUNCH SCHEDULES.

B. FOR ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 2 ONLY, THE FY81/82 FUNDING FOR BOTH HEXAGON AND GAMBIT SHOULD REMAIN AT THE PRESENT APPROVED LEVEL.

C. DISREGARD IMPACT OF ██████████ PROGRAM ON ON-ORBIT TASKING OF GAMBIT AND HEXAGON.

4. WE REMAIN OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR COST REDUCTION TECHNIQUES RELATING TO THE GAMBIT/HEXAGON ISSUE AND SOLICIT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROACHES. TO SUPPORT OUR SUBMISSION TO THE DCI, ALL OF THE ABOVE DATA SHOULD ARRIVE BY START OF BUSINESS ON 8 SEPTEMBER.

REVIEW AUG 2000

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