TOPOGRAPHIC COPY

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

TOP SECRET
HANDLE VIA BYE-MAN CHANNELS ONLY
FOR CRESS

1. REFERENCE
   A. KUBISON 2986, 23 DEC 80 TO [REDACTED] FOR J. HILL AND [REDACTED] FOR [REDACTED].
   B. KUBISON 3005, 23 DEC 80 [REDACTED] FOR DR. HERMAN/J. HILL FROM GEN KULPA/MCCHRISTIAN.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PLANNING PURPOSES WE ARE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE TWO REFERENCED MESSAGES.

3. DETAILED ASSESSMENTS OF THE GAMBIT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT A LAUNCH OF DUAL MODE GAMBIT VEHICLE 52 BY 1 MAR 81 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE LAUNCH BASE (SLC4W), BOOSTER, SATELLITE VEHICLE, AND PAYLOAD CAN SUPPORT A LAUNCH OF GAMBIT G-52 ON 26 FEB 81.

4. EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT THE OPTION OF LAUNCHING EITHER GAMBIT VEHICLE 52 OR 54 UNTIL LAUNCH MINUS 30 DAYS (27 JAN 81) WILL BE MADE. HOWEVER, SHOULD SCHEDULE CONFLICTS ARISE, VEHICLE 52 WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY SINCE THE SCHEDULES ARE BUILT ON A NO-FAIL BASIS AND DO REPRESENT SOME RISK WITH THE SIMULTANEOUS PREPARATIONS OF G-52 AND G-51.

5. ALL SYSTEMS ON HEXAGON SV-46 ARE CONTINUING TO OPERATE NORMALLY. THE ATMOSPHERIC DRAG EXPERIENCED TO DATE HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN THE PREDICTED DRAG WHICH WAS USED TO DEVELOP RV-4 DURATIONS. PRESENT BEST ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE SOURCE OF THE GREATEST UNCERTAINTY RELATIVE TO RV-4 DURATIONS.

6. STUDIES AND ANALYSIS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED BASED UPON THE DRAG SITUATION OUTLINED ABOVE, AND WE HAVE TENTATIVELY ESTABLISHED THE 1246-4 OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS. RV-4 DURATIONS WILL BE RESHAPED SOMETIME DURING THE PERIOD 15-19 JAN 81. NORMAL RV-4 OPERATIONS THEN RESUME AT AN AVERAGE ALTITUDE OF 95 MN, ENDING WITH RECOVERY IN THE PERIOD 24 THROUGH 25 FEB. THIS REPRESENTS AN RV-4 DURATION, VICE THE MODIFIED RV-4 DURATION.
PLAN FOR A \red{\textbf{RECOVERY ON 6 MAR}} WITH RV-4 OPERATIONS FROM 23 JAN UNTIL 7. IF WE EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT PREDICTION, THESE DATES MAY AGAIN BE ADJUSTED. IT IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE TO HAVE HEXAGON RECOVERY OF RV-4 OCCUR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A GAMBIT LAUNCH BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICT FOR SCF RESOURCES IN THE EVENT OF HARDWARE CONTINGENCIES FOLLOWING A LAUNCH OR PRECEDING A RECOVERY. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT INTEND TO LAUNCH GAMBIT WITHIN TWO DAYS AFTER RV-4 RECOVERY, OR WITHIN THREE DAYS PRIOR TO RV-4 RECOVERY. THIS MAY REQUIRE SOME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN GAMBIT LAUNCH DATE AND/OR THE HEXAGON RECOVERY DATE.

8. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED AS MORE DEFINITIVE INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED.

REV 31 DEC 2000

MSG CORRECTION: PROGRAM CHANGED FROM BBB TO KYK PLUS MULTIPLE ERRORS CORRECTED IN TEXT.

TOP SECRET

BT

#3202

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