

FROM			DATE
PPBS			16 June 1971
TO	INITIALS	DATE	REMARKS
DIRECTOR			<p><u>FYE</u></p> <p>1-2 Sandy:</p> <p>[redacted] passed us the attached copy of a memo from Bob Naha to Bob Kohler regarding FROG. The questions he posed were <u>not</u> taken up at the CCB meeting held at Westover on Mon-Tues this week. [redacted] and his group are working on three questions that pertain to NPIC. When his study is complete the aim is to present it to Roland as well as NRD.</p> <p>1-4 <u>FROG 7d</u></p> <p>Callahan: 10</p>
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IP FORM 30(12/70) OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

7 JUN 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CCB, MR. R. KOHLER

SUBJECT: Use of National Processing Centers

Reference is made to your letter of March 31 in which you documented your thoughts and outlined some questions concerning photographic processing requirements in the FY 1975-1980 time period. Your interest in this area is certainly not premature and your assistance in answering these questions and others that may arise is invited.

As you have pointed out, the advent of a photographic readout capability as relates to photo processing and distribution may require major changes to the existing method of operations. To provide some planning guidance for your CCB deliberations, it might be well to indicate some recent decisions and efforts which will affect future photographic system configurations and, in turn, future NPC photographic processing requirements.

The EOI readout system was approved by the NRP ExCom on April 23, 1971 and is planned for CY-76 IOC. The Phase II effort, currently being conducted, is particularly important from the standpoint of predicting NPC usage in that studies have been funded to define processed data recording and retransmission requirements and to develop a processing facility (P/F) segment operations concept and operations implementation plan. These studies' results should be available in September 1971.

Another photo reconnaissance system which has resulted from the April 23 ExCom is the FRO-GAMBIT system which is aimed at performing the crisis response and interim NRT mission. This system has a planned IOC of early CY-74 and

GAMBIT HEXAGON

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presents data processing and distribution tasks that are in many areas similar to that of the EOI system but at an earlier time period. Hence, the NPC requirements and mode of operation should be derived with consideration of both systems.

As a result of recent NRO studies and mix considerations for satellite imagery, the projected collection platforms on orbit (vice hardware or launch schedules) are provided as follows:

	<u>FY-73</u>	<u>FY-74</u>	<u>FY-75</u>	<u>FY-76</u>	<u>FY-77</u>
GAMBIT	4	3	2	2	2
HEXAGON	4	3	2	2	2
FRO-GAMBIT		2*	2		
EOI-NRT					

\*First Launch: Feb 74

\*\*First Launch: Feb-June 76

6-PACK

The introduction of longer life GAMBIT-Multiboys and 45-day HEXAGONS in FY 1975 coupled with the continuous readout capability in FY 1974 and beyond may create some trade-offs as to various types and quantity of target coverage for a given system. Thus, ultimate film processing and reproduction tasks could be greatly affected during the post FY 1975 time period. Also, it might be noted here that the magnitude of this future processing effort could be significantly affected by learning curves from HEXAGON processing (which has not yet been initiated).

COMIREX is primarily responsible for establishing photo intelligence requirements and is continuing its efforts to identify users and types of imagery. However, any assistance on the part of the photo CCB to offer pertinent data and/or identify potential problems would certainly be beneficial.

With the aforementioned guidance provided and in consonance with your thoughts and questions on future NPC utilization, it is appropriate for the photo CCB to address various aspects of the problem. The questions below relate to some of the important issues which the NRO is addressing. Your comments to the CCB applicable questions listed below would be of value to the NRO Staff in formulating the future NRT program.

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- a. Who will be the photo users in the NRT era? How many? Where located?
- b. How many users will require photo data in NRT (readout) or within three days (courier)?
- c. How much photo data will require redistribution? What type?
- d. What are the equipment configurations/modifications necessary for NRT and/or film dissemination?
- e. What data links (relays) or new transmission modes (television) are available or necessary for retrieval/redistribution considering the high data rates of photo readout?
- f. What are the photo color requirements and associated processing needs?
- g. What is the significance or impact of introducing free radical film systems?
- h. What is the impact of furnishing digital image data in the form of magnetic type recordings for off-site image reconstruction?
- i. How many NPCs are needed and at what location to satisfy photo users with NRT and/or processed film type data?
- j. How will FRO-GAMBIT and EOI systems data be phased and integrated to effectively perform the data processing, reproduction, and distribution cycles?

I expect the above questions should stimulate some thoughts on the part of the CCB and I look forward to your comments on the subject.

Should you need additional information, please contact members of my staff.

*Bob*  
F. Robert Naka

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