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[REDACTED]  
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DITTO

*LA/1986*

~~TOP SECRET~~ 292126Z SEP 80 CITE BISON 9941  
PRIORITY [REDACTED] INFO PRIORITY [REDACTED] DITTO.  
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GAMBIT/HEXAGON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FOR DR. HERMANN INFO MR. D. HAAS/MR. J. HILL;  
[REDACTED] FOR [REDACTED]  
FOR LTCOL L. CRESS; KWDITTO FOR [REDACTED]  
FROM ROSEN J. KULPA

SUBJECT: 1981 GAMBIT/HEXAGON LAUNCH OPTIONS.

REF: BISON 9933, SUBJ: HEXAGON 1216 MISSION EXTENSION

1. DURING THE WEEK OF 6 OCTOBER WE WILL HAVE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON TO BRIEF THE NRO STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY ON TWO GAMBIT/HEXAGON TOPICS REQUESTED BY THE COMMUNITY. FIRST, A DUAL MODE GAMBIT BRIEFING REPORTING ON THE SIMULATIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF MISSION WHICH CAN BE PERFORMED AND SECOND, A BRIEFING OUTLINING TWO GAMBIT AND HEXAGON LAUNCH SCHEDULE OPTIONS FOR 1981.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS OR BRIEF ON HEXAGON 1216 MISSION EXTENSION OPTIONS (SEE REF. MSG).

2. BASED ON COLLECTION GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY, WE HAVE CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE MISSION SIMULATION STUDIES, WHICH RELATE TO POTENTIAL 1981 LAUNCH SCHEDULE OPTIONS FOR GAMBIT AND HEXAGON. WE HAVE DEVELOPED TWO MAJOR MISSION ALTERNATIVES FROM WHICH WE THINK A 1981 GAMBIT/HEXAGON LAUNCH SCHEDULE CAN BE ESTABLISHED. VARIATIONS OF THESE TWO OPTIONS BASED ON CONTINGENCIES, LAUNCH PAD AVAILABILITY, CONTINUING HEALTH OF SYSTEMS NOW ON-ORBIT, AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEEDS CAN BE PLANNED ACCORDINGLY. A SUMMARY OF THESE TWO OPTIONS FOLLOWS:

(1) 1981 - GAMBIT 4351 AND HEXAGON 1217

(A) ASSUMPTION: HEXAGON 1216 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITH RV-4 RECOVERY ON 6 MAR 81 AND [REDACTED]

(B) [REDACTED]

(C) GAMBIT 4351 LAUNCH MID-APR 81 (120 DAY MISSION AT 75 NM PERIGEE) FOR HIGH RESOLUTION AND GRAIN/DRUG SURVEILLANCE (60 DAY TURNAROUND FROM [REDACTED]).

(D) HEXAGON 1217 LAUNCH EARLY JUL 81 (180 DAY MISSION)

(E) [REDACTED] (90 DAY TURNAROUND FROM 1217) (OR REVERSED WITH 1217).

(F) HEXAGON 1216 LAUNCH MID-MAR 82

(2) 1981 - GAMBITS 4351 AND 4352 (NO HEXAGON)

(A) ASSUMPTIONS (SAME AS OPTION (1)).  
(B) GAMBIT 4351 LAUNCH EARLY MAR 81 (120 DAY MISSION  
AT 75 NM PERIGEE) FOR HIGH RESOLUTION AND GRAIN/DRUG SURVEILLANCE.  
(C) [REDACTED] 160 DAY  
TURNAROUND FROM 4351.

(D) [REDACTED] (IF REQUIRED).  
(E) GAMBIT 4352 LAUNCH EARLY AUG 81 (120 DAY MISSION  
AT 450 NM) FOR GAP-FILLER SEARCH (30 DAY TURNAROUND FROM END  
OF 4351).

(F) HEXAGON 1217 LAUNCH EARLY MAR 82.  
3. COMPARISON OF OPTION (1) WITH OPTION (2)

(1) OPTION (1) (1 GAMBIT AND 1 HEXAGON):

(A) REQUIRES NO DELAY IN LAUNCH OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
(B) PROVIDES GOOD HIGH RESOLUTION SURVEILLANCE PERIOD  
FOR 4351, BUT MISSES LATE MARCH, EARLY APRIL GRAIN/DRUG COVERAGE.

(C) REQUIRES EARLY [REDACTED] HEXAGON LAUNCH DECISION  
(BOOSTER DECISION REQUIRED EARLY FEB 81).

(D) PROVIDES GOOD WORLDWIDE SEARCH COVERAGE WITH  
1217. POOR SEARCH PERIOD IF 1217 LAUNCHED AFTER [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DELAYS 1218 LAUNCH TO EARLY MAY 82  
[REDACTED] (TURNAROUND).

(2) OPTION (2) (2 GAMBITS AND NO HEXAGON):

(A) REQUIRES DELAY OF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FOR EARLY LAUNCH OF 4351 (1 MAR 81) AND SUBSEQUENT  
LAUNCH OF 4352 (1 AUG 81).

(B) PROVIDES GOOD HIGH RESOLUTION SURVEILLANCE  
PERIOD FOR 4351 AND EXTENSIVE GRAIN/DRUG COVERAGE (1 MAR-  
1 JUL 81).

(C) PROVIDES GOOD SHORT TERM GAP-FILLER STANDING  
SEARCH COVERAGE WITH 4352, PLUS LIMITED LONG TERM STANDING  
SEARCH OR THIRD WORLD COVERAGE.

(D) PROVIDES GOOD SEARCH PERIOD FOR 4352  
(1 AUG-1 DEC 81) BY BRIDGING THE GAP FROM END OF 1216  
(5 MONTHS) TO START OF 1217 (3 MONTHS).

(E) ALLOWS 1217 AND THE ENTIRE HEXAGON PROGRAM  
TO BE SLIPPED ONE YEAR FOR CONTINGENCY PURPOSES.

(F) ALLOWS [REDACTED] TO BE LAUNCHED ANYTIME  
AFTER [REDACTED] (PAD AVAILABLE) AND DOES NOT REQUIRE AN  
EARLY BOOSTER DECISION IN [REDACTED]

REVW 29 SEP 80

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