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FILE INFO

5 Nov 68 02006

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TO: JOHN PARANGOSKY

FROM:

1. PER OUR DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK I THOUGHT I WOULD PASS ALONG A FEW COMMENTS WHICH I FEEL ARE PERTINENT CONCERNING ANY ADVANCED PLANNING STUDY. THESE COMMENTS REALLY REFER TO THE SUITABILITY, APPLICABILITY, OR NECESSITY OF THE "THINK TANK" TYPE SUPPORT.

A) MISSIONS AND PROFILES - THE SELECTION OF MISSIONS AND PROFILES SHOULD BE, OF COURSE, APPROACHED WITH A COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE VIEW. HOWEVER ONE FINDS VERY RAPIDLY THAT THOSE MISSIONS AND PROFILES WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN DICTATED BY SURVIVABILITY/VULNERABILITY CONSTRAINTS. THEREFORE, THE "THINK TANK" SHOULD REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER UNLESS THEY DO SURVIVABILITY/VULNERABILITY ANALYSES WHICH HAVE THE DEPTH AND SPECIFIC RELEVANCE WHICH OSI CAN PROVIDE WHEN SUPPORTED BY CREDIBLE DESIGN STUDIES, AN UNLIKELY SITUATION.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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B) SURVIVABILITY/VULNERABILITY - ANALYSIS OF SURVIVABILITY/VULNERABILITY TO DEVELOP THE FLIGHT ENVELOPE IN WHICH SOME OPERATIONAL FREEDOM MAY BE ENJOYED REQUIRES, IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE, THE USE OF DYNAMIC INFORMATION WHICH IS CURRENT AND SUBJECT TO CREDIBILITY QUESTIONS UNLESS THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE IS MAINTAINED. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NO "THINK TANK" CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HIGH CONFIDENCE BASIS WHICH IS OFFERED BY THE COMBINATION OF OSI WITH SELECTED SUPPORT.

C) TECHNOLOGY AND STATE OF THE ART - THIS IS ONE AREA WHERE OUR EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT THE KNOWLEDGEABLE/EXPERIENCED CONTRACTOR (SUCH AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTUAL HARDWARE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE APPLICABLE SPEED ALTITUDE REGIME - FROM STOL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TO SPACE VEHICLES INCLUDING RE-ENTRY CONFIGURATIONS -- AND I WONDER WHO THAT IS --) IS BY FAR LEAPS AND BOUNDS AHEAD OF THE USUALLY NAIVE PROBLEM TREATMENT GIVEN BY "THINK TANK" GROUPS. THE SIMPLE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SUBLETIES IN DEVELOPING CONFIGURATIONS-- THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS, STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENT, WEIGHT AND BALANCE CHARACTERISTICS, EVALUATING STABILITY AND CONTROL --

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AND A HOST OF OTHER "DESIGN REQUIREMENTS" INCLUDING PROGRAM PLANNING AND COSTING WHICH SIMPLY CANNOT BE DEVELOPED IN ANY WAY OTHER THAN DIVING IN AND GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY BY INSPECTING AND ANALYZING TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPTH. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF ADVANCED SYSTEMS WHERE "CORRELATIVE PROCEDURES" EITHER DO NOT EXIST OR ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE. THE ONE WORD WHICH SUMS UP MUCH OF THIS IS "PRACTICAL."

D) OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS - IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT THIS SUBJECT REQUIRES INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE "REAL WORLD" INCLUDING THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATION. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MANY CONSTRAINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AS THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MANY SYSTEM FEATURES THAT HAVE BEEN RATED GOOD OR BAD -- AND WHICH SHOULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN FUTURE SYSTEMS. THESE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED "DETAILS" AT THIS POINT IN TIME, BUT THERE ARE MEANINGFUL CONSTRAINTS WHICH SHOULD BE DIALED IN EARLY -- AND ONLY SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE AND HAD THIS RESPONSIBILITY CAN TALK INTELLIGENTLY TO THIS POINT. THE "THINK TANK" APPROACH MIGHT BE GOOD FROM AN OVERVIEW STANDPOINT, BUT THE PROBLEM

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HARDLY REQUIRES THAT TYPE OF GROUP TO DEVELOP OVERVIEWS OR PLATITUDES.

E) THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT "OBJECTIVITY" IS VITAL IN PATH-FINDER EFFORTS OF THE NATURE WE ARE DISCUSSING. THE KEY TO THIS IS THE MONITORING GOVERNMENT GROUP WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR DEVELOPING BROAD GUIDELINES BUT FOR MAINTAINING A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF WORK AS IT IS CONDUCTED, WHETHER BY A SYSTEM CONTRACTOR OR BY A "THINK TANK." CERTAINLY YOU MUST HAVE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE A HIGH MOTIVATION, AND IT IS VITAL THAT PARTICIPANTS BE TRULY RESPONSIVE. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE ACADEMIC APPROACH AND GOAL OF THE "THINK TANK" GROUPS OFTEN REPRESENT AN INSURMOUNTABLE HURDLE IN COMING TO ANY PARTICULAR CONCLUSION OR IN RESPONDING TO "REAL WORLD" CONSTRAINTS. THEY OFTEN SEEM TO BE FORCED TO MAINTAIN THEIR IMAGE OF CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS, AND NOT RISK ASSESSING PRIORITIES OF ITEMS. THIS CAN BE SUMMED UP AS PERHAPS "ACADEMIC OBJECTIVITY."

2. THESE COMMENTS SUMMARIZE THE THOUGHTS OF BOTH HAROLD AND MYSELF AND ARE FORWARDED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

3. WE WILL FORWARD A WIRE WITH COMMENTS ON SURVIVABILITY/

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VULNERABILITY ANALYSES LATER TODAY.

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