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	2	7	12	17
	3	8	13	18
	4	9	14	19
	5	10	15	20

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~~T O P S E C R E T~~ HEXAGON 180631Z NOV 71 CITE HONOLULU 28767

PILOT [] INFO []

ATTN: EYES ONLY [], S. PATTERSON, []

FROM: []

1. NAVY TASK ELEMENT COMPRISED OF WHITE SANDS WITH TRIESTE ABOARD AND IN ICE BY APACHE RETURNED TO PEARL HARBOR 1400 LOCAL 15 NOV. RESULTS OF RECOVERY OPERATIONS WERE NEGATIVE.
2. TRIESTE MADE ONE DIVE TO 15,400 FEET ON 4 NOV. THIS DIVE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED UNDERWATER (BOTTOM) FIXES OF TARGET (BELIEVED TO BE RV-5) RELATIVE TO DEEP OCEAN TRANSPONDERS (DOTS) PLACED BY SCRIPP'S SHIP DESTIEGER AND TWO ADD'L DOTS PLACED BY APACHE TO MAKE AN APPROX. EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE. THE LATTER TWO DOTS HAVE CALENDAR LIFE OF ONE YEAR AND LOL OF 100,000 RESPONSES. DESTIEGER DOTS HAD ONE MONTH LIFE APPROX. EXCELLENT SURFACE NAV. FIXES BY TRANSIT LOCATED SURFACE POSITS. UNFORTUNATELY HEAVY WEATHER PRECLUDED ANY FURTHER DIVES BY TRIESTE.
3. TRIESTE OPERATIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED UP TO STATE 2 SEAS WITH SURFACE WINDS UP TO ABOUT TEN KNOTS. REFUELING TRIESTE WITH AVGAS, RESMOTTING WITH EB'S, AND TOWING AND SOCKING HER WITHOUT RISK OF

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ACTION	1		6		11	16	
	2		7		12	17	
	3		8		13	18	
	4		9		14	19	
	5		10		15	20	

PAGE 2 HONOLULU 22767 T O P S E C R E T HEXAGON

MAJOR DAMAGE NEED TO BE DONE IN RELATIVELY CALM SEAS. AFTER DIVE, SEAS REMAINED WELL ABOVE STATE 2 AND WINDS ABOVE 10 KNOTS UNTIL DEPARTURE FROM AREA WAS NECESSITATED BY POUNDING TAKEN BY TOWEL TRIESTE. VISUAL OBSERVATION FROM WHITE SANDS INDICATED THERE WAS SUFFICIENT DAMAGE TO TRIESTE TO PRECLUDE OPERATIONS-TRIESTE NEEDED TO BE DOCKED AND REPAIRED. TO COMPOUND SITUATION, APACHE NEEDED FUEL AND COULD NOT BE FUELED BY WHITE SANDS BECAUSE OF WEATHER. ANOTHER SHIP, USS CURRENT, WAS SENT FROM PEARL HARBOR TO RELIEVE APACHE WHO WENT TO PEARL, FUELED AND RETURNED TO ASSURE TOW DUTIES. DECISION MADE TO RETURN TASK ELEMENT TO PEARL TO REPAIR TRIESTE AND DETERMINE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.

4. CLIMATOLOGY FROM FLEET WEATHER CENTRAL, PEARL INDICATES THAT WEATHER HEAVIER THAN THAT WHICH TASK ELEMENT CAN SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE WILL BE PRESENT IN TARGET AREA ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF TIME BETWEEN NOW AND ABOUT MID-MARCH 1972. AS LONG AS A POSSIBILITY OF RECOVERY EXISTS, COMSUBPAC, RADM P. LACY WAS TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO RECOVERY NV-3 EARLIEST. ACCORDINGLY, WITH FULL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF SUBPAC STAFF, TASK ELEMENT AUGMENTED BY ONE ADD'L FLEET TOWING SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART PEARL SATURDAY AM FOR OPERATING AREA. TIME AWAY FROM PEARL IS INDEFINITE BUT WITH LUCK CAN BE

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FILE INFO

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ACTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

PAGE 3 HONOLULU 28767 T O P S E C R E T HEXAGON

MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS. SSPO REP CONSIDERS PROBABILITY OF RECOVERY LOW DUE TO WEATHER BUT SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ATTEMPTED.

5. HAVE OBSERVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION, ENTHUSIASM AND COMPETENCE FROM TASK ELEMENT AND COMSUBPAC STAFF, CDR I.B. MOONEY, OTC; LCDR M.G. BARTELS, OMC WHITE SANDS AND TRIESTE; LCDR P.L. STRYKER CO-PILOT TRIESTE AND LT. R.W. TAYLOR, CREW MEMBER TRIESTE, ALONG WITH OFFICERS AND CREW OF WHITE SANDS AND APACHE HAVE PERFORMED WELL. ALSO 6594 TEST WING AT NICKAM AFB UNDER COMMAND COL. W.F. QUINN USAF HAS PROVIDED MOST TIMELY SERVICES BY AIR DROPPING SUPPLIES AND ARRANGING EXCELLENT LOCAL SHORT RANGE WEATHER REPORTS. UPON COMPLETION OF DEEP SUBMERGENCE RECOVERY OPERATION, SUGGEST CONSIDER COMMENDING ABOVE MENTIONED MEN AND UNITS DEPENDENT, OF COURSE, ON OVERALL RESULTS ACHIEVED.

6. FYI, [REDACTED] OF DR. MACLVARS STAFF IN PEARL ON OTHER BUSINESS WILL BE GIVEN SHORT BRIEFING ON RECOVERY ATTEMPTS AT 0832 THURS. GP-1

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