U-973-09/DWO 04 May 2009

Talking Paper for the Director

SUBJECT: (U) Senator Reid Visit to Director, DIA

1. (U) PURPOSE: To provide LTG Burgess with the current status of the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications contract should Senator Reid raise the topic.

2. (U//~~FOUO~~) BACKGROUND: Senator Inouye (D-HI) and Senator Reid (D-Nev) sponsored language in the July 2008 Supplemental Appropriation bill for DIA to initiate an investigation of foreign advanced aerospace weapon threats from the present out to 40 years in the future. Senator Reid has a deep interest in the potential threat posed by unconventional aerospace technologies; that is, technologies that are a radical departure to those used in current advanced aerospace vehicles. He is interested in what technological "leaps" are feasible and their implications to US national defense. In response to this tasking, the DIA published a request for proposals (RFP) on 18 August 2008. The RFP asked for proposals that would study advanced, unconventional concepts for use in aerospace vehicles, broken up into the following twelve technical areas:

- Lift
- Propulsion
- Control
- Armament (radio-frequency and directed-energy weapons)
- Spatial/temporal Translation
- Signature Reduction
- Materials
- Configuration/structure
- Power Generation
- Human Effects (of advanced tech on operators)
- Human Interface (i.e. pilot controls)
- Technology Integration

DIA received only one bid, from Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), in response to the RFP. DIA determined that the proposal was responsive and the contract signed on 22 September 2008. During a meeting with LTG Maples on 13 November 2008, Senator Reid discussed the importance of this contract effort. The following has occurred since that meeting.

3. (U) TALKING POINTS:

- (U//~~FOUO~~) **Technical Areas.** On 21 November 2008, BAASS submitted program management plans (PMPs) for each of the 12 technical areas.
    - (U//~~FOUO~~) DIA reviewed the PMPs and rated them as very good to excellent. BAASS was granted approval to proceed with the initial technical reports.
    - (U//~~FOUO~~) BAASS will deliver to DIA approximately two detailed research reports per technical area for FY09. Each extensive report is being written by world-class technical experts in industry and academia. The goal is for DIA to have all reports available for publication by the end of July 2009. Planning for expansion of this effort in FY10 has begun.

- (U//~~FOUO~~) The establishment of a FY10 university grant program for advanced aerospace research and experimentation, focusing on the best graduate schools in the U.S, has commenced.

- (U//~~FOUO~~) **Contract is on track.** The contract is currently proceeding on schedule and within cost. BAASS performance has been excellent.

  - (U//~~FOUO~~) This contract is providing a unique opportunity for DIA to both understand very advanced aerospace-related technology and to determine its threat potential to the US. As the effort expands in the future with: 1) worldwide-calibrated data collection, 2) world-class expert analysis, 3) university and national lab collaboration, 4) information exchange with major aerospace and electronic firms, and 5) enhanced ONI and NASIC cooperation, DIA will be the integrating force behind the development of a center-of-excellence in the area of advanced aerospace weapon system applications. The continued support and guidance of Senator Reid and Senator Inouye is crucial to the success of this endeavor.

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