

# 174



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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

USD  
COMET

1 OCT 1985

RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

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Authority EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: MAR 17 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex- ACTION  
MEMORANDUM (U)

(S) Letters from Congressman Kramer on 25 <sup>July</sup> June (Tab B) and Senator Hart on 28 August (Tab C) requested your comments on the prioritization of the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC) and the subsequent decision by the DRB to cancel the program. Senator Hart stated that this decision contravenes the requirement for an initial operating capability of the SOPC in 1992 and violates the intent of the Congress. He requests that you reverse the DRB recommendation and ensure completion of the SOPC by 1992 by including a full funding request in the 1987 budget.

(U) Section 1210 of the FY 86 Authorization Bill stipulates that the Secretary of the Air Force give sufficient priority to the completion of the SOPC to support an IOC date for mission control in November 1992. If this language is enacted, and I expect that it will, canceling the SOPC will be inconsistent with this provision, and we will need to determine whether our current position on the SOPC can be maintained.

(U) The proposed response to Congressman Kramer apologizes for the delay in responding, but states that you wanted to wait until the DRB had completed its review of all Defense programs. This response and the one to Senator Hart informs them that a DRB decision to cancel the SOPC has been made. However, if Section 1210 is enacted this decision will need to be reviewed. The final decision on the SOPC will be based on overall Departmental priorities, and will be reflected in the FY 87 President's Budget submission..

(U) The decision not to fund the SOPC leaves the Johnson Space Center (JSC) as the only site for planning and controlling military shuttle flights. JSC's ability to meet military requirements would require either a cutback in the commercial/civil payloads or augmentation of the facility at some additional cost.

(U) I am asking the Under Secretary of the Air Force to provide an operational assessment of the SOPC cancellation, including limitations and deficiencies resulting from operations at Johnson Space Center (JSC). I am also requesting Mr. Jim Beggs provide a similar assessment concerning the impact to NASA operations and programs and to identify additional costs that may be incurred to augment the JSC capability.

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

~~DECLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED] 1988 as amended  
Date: [REDACTED]  
Chief, Rec & Decls Div, WHS~~

13-M-4773

CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED] 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

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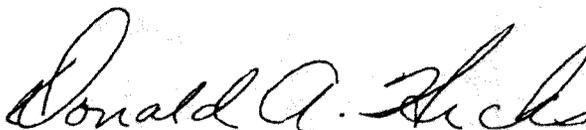
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Sec Def Cont Nr. X36910

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(U) Finally, I have asked Lt Gen Abrahamson to assess the impact of flying all research and possible operational SDI payloads from JSC. I plan on reviewing these assessments prior to completing the BES Review.

(U) RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the proposed responses at Tab A.

  
Donald A. Hicks

Attachments  
a/s

Coordination:

ASD (LA) See next under

GC See next under

SAF/US See next under

PA&E See next under

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Office of the Secretary of Defense 5052  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 17 MAR 2014 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: 5052(6)(C)  
MDR: 13 -M- 4773

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65) 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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Donald A. Hicks

Attachments

a/s

Coordination:

ASD (LA) \_\_\_\_\_

GC *ABE* "signed" 18 SEP 1985  
Chapman B. Cox

SAF/US \_\_\_\_\_

PA&E \_\_\_\_\_

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*E. C. Abrahamson* 10 Sept 85

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