

#170



RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

(S&TNF)

SECRET
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS **5472552**
Date: **19 Jun 2014** Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: **5456552(6)(6)**
MDR: **13-M-4777**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

(S) Letters from Congressman Kramer on 25 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.

(S) 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, this decision will be reviewed in the fall; 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.

decision not

(S) The failure 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. ~~These costs, unfunded in the NASA budget, would approximate the costs to complete the SOPC at Colorado Springs. Senator Hart is correct in that by canceling the SOPC we would be sending the wrong message to Congress prior to the Appropriations markup concerning our commitment to a viable and robust military space program.~~

(S) I am directing 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.

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090 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

Prepared by: [Redacted]

13-M-4777

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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) _____

GC _____

SAF/US _____

PA&E See attached

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