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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20311-3090

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: MAR 04 2014

RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING  
(S&TNF)

27 SEP 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE *Pete*

SUBJECT: Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex Cancellation Impact (U)

(U) The recent decision by the Defense Resources Board to cancel the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC) because of fiscal constraints has placed us in the position of single nodding the planning and control of future shuttle missions and fully relying on NASA's support. I am asking Jim Beggs to provide the operational and programmatic impact to NASA as a result of this decision.

(U) The other necessary part of this puzzle - the impact to DoD programs - needs to be addressed by the Air Force, as the DoD Executive Agent for Space Launch, and the SDIO. In developing your assessment of the impact to all non-SDI DoD programs, assuming a DoD flight rate of 10-12 per year, I would like the following specifically addressed:

- (U) Identify the impact, if any, of relying solely on the NASA facility for all military missions in terms of future workload, vulnerabilities, security, and operational responsiveness.
- (U) Air Force resource levels required to maintain a military capability at Johnson that would not have been required had a SOPC been authorized (non-acquisition costs).
- (U) With regard to security identify the procedures and associated costs resulting from the requirement to operate at the "controlled mode" level. Also describe any operational impact to specific missions as a result of this.

(U) I would also be interested in your scoping out a SOPC program that assumes a start in FY 87 vice FY 86 but maintains the IOC dates specified in the FY 86 Authorization Bill. Include any contractor related costs and impacts resulting from not going forward with the planned FY86 contractor down select. As a result of our PDM decision, the Appropriations Committees may zero the FY 86 RDT&E funds, thereby necessitating this one year gap.

(U) Your response is required by 7 October so that my staff can review your input together with the NASA input prior to the completion of the BES review. My staff officer for this action is [REDACTED]

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

*Donald A. Hicks*

Donald A. Hicks

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Authority: EO 13526, as amended  
Date: MAR 04 2014  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]  
DECLASSIFY ON: [REDACTED]

13-M-4767

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON D.C. 20301 -3090

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: MAR 04 2014



RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

(S&TNF)

27 SEP 1985

Mr. James M. Beggs  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20546

Office of the Secretary of Defense SUS.C. 3552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 04 MAR 2014 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: \* Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: SUS.C. 3552(0)(G)  
MDR: 13-M-4767

Dear Jim:

I am sure that you are aware of the recent decision to cancel the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC) in the Air Force POM. In our deliberations over the funding of a SOPC program it was evident that a number of SOPC programs of differing levels of capability have been postulated. Understanding the correlation of capability to cost and at the same time putting a confidence level on them requires further clarification.

(U) During the discussions on the SOPC program this summer the Air Force revisited the original budget submission and de-scoped the SOPC program. The acquisition costs for this refined program approximated \$204 million for the FY 87-91 period. I understand that this cost included a capability similiar to that provided in the NASA quote of \$178M, presented to Space Command last May, plus the cost for a communications package.

(S) Now that the decision has been made to cancel the program, the impact to NASA operations and programs at JSC needs to be addressed. This impact needs to be assessed for the following: first, that there is no attempt to augment the JSC facility and the DoD flights will take priority, perhaps reducing the level of commercial/civil payloads; or second, the capability at JSC is augmented, if required, to maintain the commercial/civil manifest while supporting the military manifest. Regarding the military manifest, I believe that two levels need to be appraised. The first assumes a flight rate of 6-8 military missions per year, and the second assumes a flight rate of 10-12 per year.

I would appreciate your comments on any operational impacts to NASA resulting from the SOPC cancellation decision, and the resulting cost estimates. The cost estimates should cover the period FY87-91. In addition, I would be interested in your comments concerning other cost impacts to Shuttle use by the DoD as a result of the SOPC decision.

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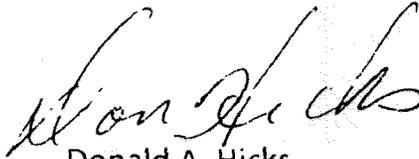
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(U) The final decision on SOPC will be reflected in the FY 87 President's Budget. The current plan calls for revisiting the SOPC decision during the Fall Review. For that reason I would appreciate your response by October 11. I would be more than happy to discuss this further at your convenience. Details regarding the NASA input can be arranged through my staff point of contact, [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Donald A. Hicks

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: MAR 04 2014

(S) 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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