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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D C 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 19 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Response to Mr. Beggs' Letter of September 27, 1985, on the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (U) -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

(U) Attached is a proposed response to Jim Beggs' letter of September 27, 1985.

(U) The NASA letter states their strong support for SOPC and delineates additional Air Force fiscal obligations to NASA should we not procure a SOPC capability. I do not agree with NASA's view of these obligations. If accepted, many of these obligations would be payable even if SOPC were to be activated. Furthermore, the letter attempts to set the precedent that the Air Force is responsible for NASA budgetary shortfalls brought about by DOD decisions affecting the STS. While equitable in some instances, this concept has not been endorsed in reverse. NASA has made a multitude of changes in Space Shuttle costs, schedules and performance which added substantial obligations to Air Force budgets.

(U) The proposed response acknowledges NASA's concerns and the recent OSD decision to add an austere SOPC to the FY 87 President's Budget.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 USC 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHIS
Date: 19 Aug 2015 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part:
Reason:
MDR: 13-M-4786

2 Attachments

- 1. Proposed Letter to Mr. Beggs (U)
- 2. Mr. Beggs' Letter of Sep 27, 1985 (U), w/OSD Routing Slips (U)

14 NOV 1985

USD/R&E
ASD/C

L. W. Woodruff
Donald A. Hicks

Letter is OK but question of future obligations need to be resolved

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13-M-4786
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RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING
(S&TNF)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON D C 20301

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 19 2015

COVER BRIEF

TO: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
THRU: DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING (STRATEGIC AND THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES)
FROM: ACTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR OFFENSIVE AND
SPACE SYSTEMS
SUBJECT: Response to Mr. Beggs on SOPC Impact (U)

Womson

(U) PROBLEM: Mr. Beggs wrote to the Sec Def on 27 September regarding his concern over the cancellation of the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC) and the resultant impact on NASA operations. (Tab B)

(U) DISCUSSION: Air Force was assigned the responsibility for preparing the Sec Def response.

(C) The proposed response (Tab A) acknowledges NASA's concerns and the recent OSD decision to add the austere SOPC to the FY 87 President's Budget

(U) RECOMMENDATION: That you coordinate on the proposed response at Tab A.

(U) COORDINATION: None

SUSPENSE NO: OSD: 18895 R&E: N/A

Enclosures 2

Prepared by: *On* D. Granato/x59292/12 Nov 85

~~CLASSIFIED BY: Multiple Sources~~
~~DECLASSIFY ON: OADR~~

OSD TADMS/DIA - CONFIDENTIAL
Authority: EO 13526, as amended
Date: 10/12/2014
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Authority: EO 13526
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USD/R&E _____

ASD/C _____

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. James M. Beggs
Administrator, HQ NASA
Code A
Washington, DC 20546

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 19 2015

Dear Jim:

(U) I appreciate your September 27 letter concerning DOD's current deliberations on the affordability of the Air Force Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC). The DOD recognizes NASA's need to ensure that STS operations are adequately supported despite external decisions impacting future plans and funding.

(U) As you are aware, the DOD has been reviewing the SOPC cancellation ~~decision~~. The NASA impact assessment that you provided in your letter was considered together with the Air Force and SDI impact assessments. Based on these assessments I have directed that the SOPC program be restored in the FY 87 President's Budget. While the specifics of the program are still not final, I am confident that the DOD SOPC program will provide for much of the relief to NASA resources sought in your letter.

(U) I appreciate your continued support of DOD initiatives such as this.

Sincerely,

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Authority: EO 13526, 68 CFR 1.5
Date: 02/10/2009
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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
20546

Office of the Administrator

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SEP 27 1985

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Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Page determined to be Unclassified
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
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Date: AUG 19 2015

Dear Cap:

NASA has been an active partner with the DOD in the planning of the Shuttle Operations Planning Center (SOPC) since the mid-1970's. The NASA/DOD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) jointly signed in 1980, states that the DOD will develop a SOPC. It was planned to be available in the mid-1980's. As an interim solution to provide a secure operational capability for the early DOD missions, a classified Controlled Mode System was developed at the NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC). At that time, the SOPC was scheduled to be operational in the 1984-86 time period. In 1982, to help alleviate some SOPC budget and schedule issues, JSC, upon request of USAF/Space Division, stated by letter that they would be able to, with certain constraints, effect more classified missions than the six to eight per year that Controlled Mode was designed to support. This proposal was made with the assumption that SOPC would eventually be available to execute the DOD missions and such a level of support by JSC would not be required for a long period of time. It was clearly understood that if this arrangement were to become permanent, an expansion of the JSC facilities would be required.

Since that time, NASA has continued to support the DOD's efforts to acquire the SOPC. All of the NASA activities have been performed within the context of the DOD's long term plan of implementing the SOPC and have not included any internal NASA planning related to expansion of the JSC capability. Since 1982, the initial operational capability of the SOPC has continually moved further away until the most recent events which cancelled it entirely pending budget review. This decision was made unilaterally by the USAF without consulting with NASA. I have asked the Shuttle managers to evaluate the impact of this most recent decision by the DOD and they believe that a SOPC cancellation will severely impact the operations and utilization of the JSC facilities through the 1990's. The situation can only be remedied by an expenditure of funds not currently available in the NASA budget. Our most recent cost assessments indicate that the non-recurring costs are about \$180 Million, with recurring costs of \$20 Million annually. This cost would have to be charged to the USAF since there is no way that NASA can cover it in its budget request. Our understanding is that this is the same amount of money that would be required to develop the SOPC by the Air Force. The USAF budget decision does not provide any assistance to NASA to relieve this situation.

We believe that it is in the best interest of all elements of the Shuttle program to have the USAF develop the SOPC. It offloads the key NASA

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facilities, provides a "dual-mode" capability to assure successful control of DOD and NASA Shuttle missions, and, most importantly, places the DOD in the position to plan and control manned military space flights.

NASA recently proposed a modified lower cost version of the SOPC to the USAF which would provide the basic elements of flight planning, training, and control capability at a cost which approximates that required at JSC to compensate for the SOPC cancellation. This proposal would provide the DOD with a mission control capability by 1990 and I believe it deserves a review by your office prior to your final decision on the SOPC.

It is either necessary to proceed with the planned SOPC implementation or develop a plan with NASA to accommodate the SOPC cancellation. We solicit your support. We are, of course, available at any time to discuss this with you or the USAF.

Sincerely,


James M. Beggs
Administrator

cc: Secretary of the AF, Verne Orr
Deputy Secretary of Defense, William. H. Taft IV
Under Secretary of Defense for Research
and Engineering, Donald A. Hicks