



RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

28 DEC 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF SPACE, AFRDS

SUBJECT: Impact of the Orbiter Procurement Decision on the DoD Mission Model

The President has approved the production of a four orbiter Shuttle fleet operating from two sites. NASA is now negotiating with OMB to add funding in the out years to (1) improve the structural test article at a later date to the full capability (orbiter 103) configuration, and (2) to preserve the ability to acquire a fifth orbiter when needed with delivery five years after go-ahead.

The production option which the President approved, known as the STA option, has evolved fairly recently. I believe that a full evaluation of the impact of this selected four orbiter option on the DoD mission model should be made over the next few months. I would appreciate it if you would direct such an evaluation.

The evaluation should cover the full period of the mission model, but concentrate on the implications of losing one orbiter during the early period. (FY 1981-FY 1985). Several cases might be assumed where the loss occurs at different times and the orbiter lost is the most capable during any given period. The impact for each case should be examined assuming that DoD has overriding priority when requested in special cases. Backup ELV requirements should be reexamined, and the importance of preserving the ability to acquire a fifth orbiter in five years or less evaluated. My staff will work with your study group to further define the ground rules.

Would you please get together with my staff to work out a schedule for this evaluation.

SIGNED:

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Ch RDD, WHS  
Date: NOV 19 2007  
IAW EO 12958 Section 3.5

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3/20/07 OSD MDR

08-M-CAP3