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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Space <

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 17, 1979

Mr. David Sitrin
Office of Management & Budget
National Security Division
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Dave:

I am writing this letter to follow-up our conversations on Tuesday January 16th regarding the construction of the Vandenberg Air Force Base facil to be used for Space Shuttle launches. The schedule is illustrated by the attach time line. We have developed a schedule for the construction of the Vandenb facility that works backwards from the first projected launch using the new site.

In developing the schedule, it is important to state the basic assumptions:

1. It is now most probable that the President's program for Fiscal Year 19 will contain the first scheduled launch of [redacted] using the Spa Shuttle vehicle in June of 1984. This is shown on the time line. (b)(1) (b)(3)

2. To prepare for such a launch from a new launch pad with a new vehi "Shuttle Orbiter 103" and the new payload for [redacted] will requ approximately six months preparation before the launch. In my judgment t estimate is rather tight. The six months time period is based on an estimate of t check out time required for new equipment by extrapolating the current thr months' preparation period that is required for checking out an advanced inte gence payload launched from a Titan IIIC vehicle. The construction work at launch site should therefore be finished by December 1983. (b)(1) (b)(3)

3. Shuttle Orbiter 103, the vehicle to be used for the launch of [redacted] payload will become available in December 1982. It is m important to use that vehicle for at least one flight from the eastern launch s before it is used for the first Shuttle flight from the western facility. It necessary to make absolutely certain that the vehicle performs properly a actually has the payload characteristics that are predicted. A flight from t eastern test range would be carried out sometime in 1983. Any schedule slip in t construction of Shuttle Orbiter 103 would make such a flight impossible a therefore the Shuttle Orbiter schedule must be held in order to meet the June 19 launch date from the western launch site. (b)(1) (b)(3)

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4. The Shuttle Launch Pad at Vandenberg will be constructed in such a way that future thrust augmentation of the Shuttle launch system can be accommodated. The current best estimate is that [redacted] will not require thrust augmentation. (b)(1) (b)(3)

These arguments make it imperative that the western launch site be available for preparatory work for the June 1984 launch by December 1983. I am enclosing a copy of the funding profile that will permit us to hold to this schedule. I hope very much that the funding profile that we have constructed here is acceptable. Let me stress again the importance of getting these numbers into the President's printed budget book that we will be presenting to the Congress. I believe that we are obligated to use the best and most accurate information that we have at the time the book goes to press and I hope very much that we can get the necessary approvals to put these numbers into the Budget Book.

I much appreciate the time that you have spent in discussing this matter. Please let me know if you or your colleagues have any questions. With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Hans

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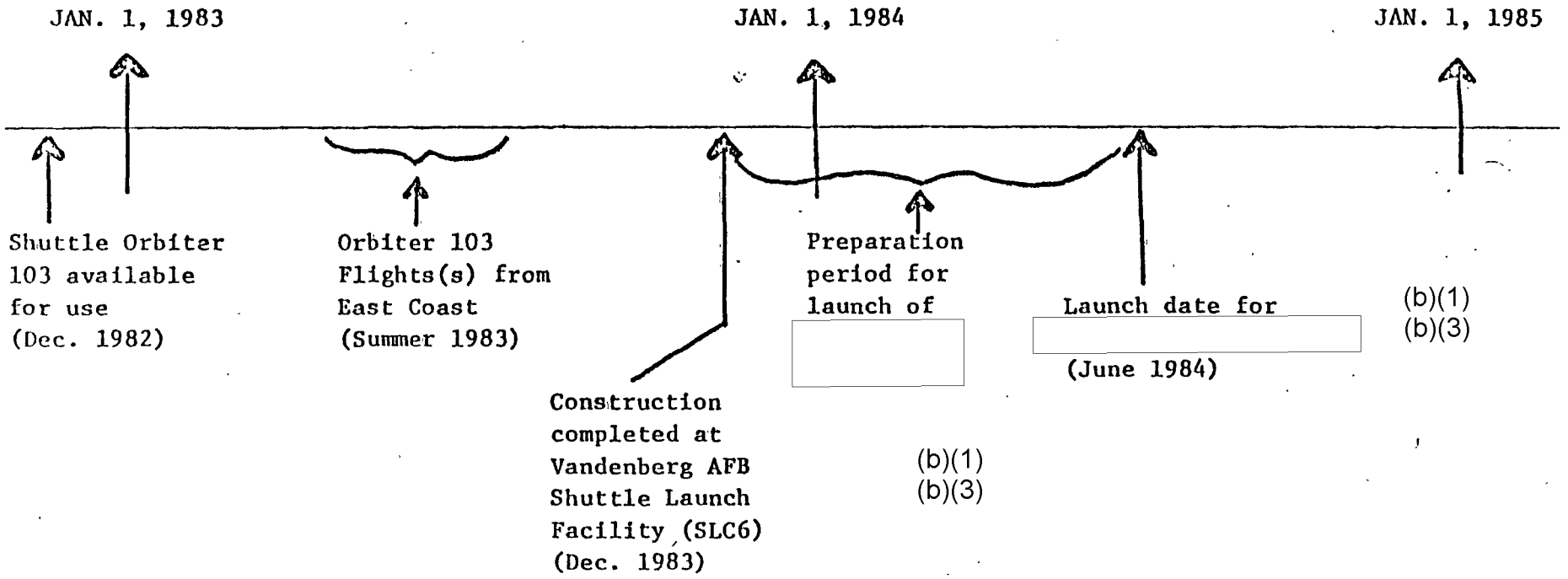
Hans Mark

cc: Daniel Taft
Arnold Donahue
Dr. Robert Howard

TIME LINE FOR SHUTTLE LAUNCH FACILITY
PREPARATION AT VANDENBERG AFB



Rationale to Support Program Adjustments to a December 1983 VAFB IOC

FY79
- No adjustments to the approved and funded program.

FY80
- Orbiter Processing Facilities (OMCF and HMCF) required to meet delivery and processing of first orbiter for a December 1983 IOC.

- IIII Relocation required to insure availability of solid segment storage building at SLC-6 for modification as SRB Refurbishment and Subassembly Facility (FY 81 MCP).

- Mission Operations Center Mods (JSC) required to meet NASA scheduling and assure completion prior to first DOD launch from KSC.

- Launch Pad Thrust Augmentation required to support inclusion of thrust augmentation options into the launch pad construction (FY 79 MCP) and complete for a December 1983 IOC.

- Utilities project is now required in FY 80 to provide a total utilities upgrade at North Vandenberg and South Vandenberg for construction and activation of the launch pad and Orbiter Processing Facilities to meet the December 1983 IOC.

FY81/82/83
- Adjustments to proposed facilities made to insure completion and activation to meet a December 1983 IOC.

SPACE SHUTTLE FY 80-84 FYDP
(March 1984 VAFB IOC)

	FY 78 & PRIOR	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	TOTAL

(1) Includes FY 80 funding for Thrust Augmentation at "insurance" level.

(2) Requires launch pad MILCON cost increases be provided through reprogramming or supplemental appropriation to FY 79 program.

FYDP CORRECTIONS (DEC 83 VAFB IOC)

	FY 78 & PRIOR	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	TOTAL

FYDP CORRECTIONS (JUN 83 VAFB IOC)

*Criteria for Thrust Augmentation is estimated to be available in August 79. Design then can be completed by August 80 which coincides with the FY 81 program. If design criteria is available earlier, we can go with 302 Emergency or deficiency authority for the difference between funds we have and funds we need.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

DOD STS CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS ($M)
DEC 83 IOC (MILCON ONLY)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	TOTAL
Basic Program							
Thrust Augmentation (Launch Pad)							
TOTAL							

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

- Requirements for Dec 83 IOC - Meets DOD mission model.
- Includes JSC Controlled Mode (in 80); IUS requirements at KSC (in 79).

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

DOD STS FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS
(DEC 83 VAFB IOC)

		TOTAL
FY79		
VAFB	Launch Pad Complex	
KSC	IUS Mods to SMAB/MAL Park Site	
TOTAL		
FY80		
VAFB	Orbiter Maintenance and Checkout	
	Hypergol Maintenance and Checkout (Control and Cell A)	
	TIII Relocate	
JSC	Mission Operations Center Mods	
VAFB	Launch Pad Thrust Aug	
	Utilities	
TOTAL		
FY81		
VAFB	Airfield	
	SRB Refurbishment and Subassembly	
	Transportation	
	Logistics	
	Integrated Ops Support Center	
	SAMTEC HQ	
	Ext Tank Storage and c/o	
	SRB Retrieval and Disassembly	
TOTAL		
FY82		
VAFB	Harbor Modification	
	Parachute Refurbishment	
	Flight Crew Systems	
TOTAL		
FY83		
VAFB	Safing and Deservicing	
	Hypergol Maintenance and Checkout (Cell B)	
TOTAL		