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Approved for Release: 2019/05/02 C05107392
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20331



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SCOR

9 OCT 1968



SUBJECT: Joint AFWTR/1st Strategic Aerospace Division Study to Establish a Harbor of Refuge (U)

TO: HQ USAF (AFRDSE)

1. The attached study is submitted in response to Hq USAF (AFRDSE) letter, Subject: Deferral of State of California Permit to Construct a Harbor of Refuge in Cojo Anchorage; 18 July 1968.

2. An earlier joint AFWTR/1st Strategic Aerospace Division study, submitted to your office in May 1968, concluded that commercial and public encroachment into the Cojo Bay area would increase the risk to life and property so as to restrict the flexibility for conducting space missions. The attached study addresses itself, as directed by AFRDSE, only to the establishment of a suitable harbor of refuge on Vandenberg Air Force Base, designed to satisfy humanitarian needs of the State of California, but still provide sufficient government control so as to restrict public and commercial development.

3. The evaluation performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends the Point Arguello Boathouse area as a possible site for an alternate harbor of refuge to provide required government control. It must be emphasized that a harbor so located jeopardizes launch azimuths currently approved in the 170° - 180° area, and although government-funded evacuation of people can be effected, there is a high risk of damage to property (i.e., anchored pleasure and fishing boats).

4. The Air Force Systems Command recommendations are as follows:

a. Deny a permit to construct a harbor of refuge at Cojo Bay. Although the impact limit lines for currently approved launch azimuths (i.e. 170° - 180°) afford marginal protection for Cojo Bay, foreseen public and commercial build up following establishment of such a harbor will surely jeopardize these azimuths. In addition, future programs requesting more easterly launch azimuths will raise the risk factor beyond acceptable limits.

b. In the event such a denial is unsuccessful, recommend the Point Arguello Boathouse area be considered to restrict public and commercial development. In this instance, the government must be prepared to assume the attendant risks to property in the anchorage.

UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENT, THIS DOCUMENT
MAY BE DOWNGRADED TO CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

~~FORGING MILITARY SPACEPOWER~~

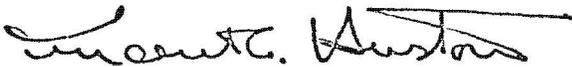
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c. A second alternative in the event denial is unsuccessful is for the government to acquire lease-hold interest on sufficient acreage immediately surrounding the Cojo area to limit public and commercial development. This alternative offers the additional benefit of allowing current launch azimuths to be continued without increased risk, while limiting the risk to more easterly azimuths.

5. We request to be advised of your action on this matter and stand ready to provide any required additional information needed to obtain prompt resolution.

FOR THE COMMANDER



VINCENT G. HUSTON
Major General, USAF
DCS/Operations

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