

CONFIDENTIAL

21 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT AIR MINISTER AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: Location of the Pacific Missile Launching Facility for the Mercury Program

Reference is made to AIRM Order No. 41-39, dated November 17, 1950, which approves the construction of the Launch Complex at Point Arguello for the Mercury Program.

As the site is requested approval of the funds for this launch complex and the associated missile launching building, the Director of the Budget, SAC (Construction), made the following observation in a memorandum to the Director, AEC:

"It is to be noted that your request includes funds for missile launching buildings to be located at Vandenberg Air Force Base. In reviewing the master plan of the Pacific Missile Range, it appears that a more suitable location for these facilities would have been the Navy industrial area at Point Arguello. The location of these facilities at Vandenberg, in our opinion, is likely to produce problems of transportation when considering the building loads which connect the Air Force base with the Arguello launching facilities, and it may generate a requirement for road improvements, the cost of which will be significant. It is suggested that further consideration be given to the siting of these facilities."

It would be appreciated if you would review the siting of these facilities in a letter to the SAC, with special reference to the roads and other general site facility matters which are the responsibility of the Pacific Missile Range. I believe it would be helpful if your letter indicated the views of the Assistant, Pacific Missile Range, concerning the location of this building, and I am therefore enclosing him a copy of this memorandum.

Your receipt of your letter and AEC approval of the site location, funds shall be released for construction of the missile launching building.

W. H. Johnson  
Director

1 Encl:  
AIRM Order No. 41-39

DOWNGRADED TO S/SG YEAR INTERVAL YEAR  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DMR 5200.10

cc: Commander  
Pacific Missile Range