

The original documents are located in Box 18, folder “Helicopter Research (2)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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September 11, 1976

Dear Mills:

This is in further reference to my letter to you of August 18th concerning the status of NASA's plans for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia 23219

NASA/JOM/d1





National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
20546

Office of the Administrator

SEP 10 1976

SEP 8 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is a proposed draft reply to The Honorable Mills E. Goodwin, Jr., Governor of Virginia, that provides information regarding the timeframe for implementing my decision to name Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

Sincerely,



James C. Fletcher
Administrator

Enclosure

Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mills:

As I promised in my note to you dated August 18, 1976, I have looked into the status of the NASA planning for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60 to 90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh

See also Cong Downing
Pateman & Kellogg

August 18, 1976

Dear Mills:

Many thanks for your letter of August 10 with regard to Tom Downing's concern over the proposed transfer of certain helicopter programs from Langley to Ames Research Center.

I am looking into this situation again, and will contact you in the very near future.

With warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia 23219
JOM:RAR:cb





AUG 11 1976

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor

August 10, 1976

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jack:

I enclose correspondence supplied me by Congressman Thomas N. Downing relative to the proposed transfer of the helicopter research and development program from Langley Research Center in Virginia to the Ames Research Center in California.

Tom has urged that the proposed transfer be held in abeyance pending an examination of the cost effectiveness of the plan by the Controller General of the United States. You will note the letter to Tom from Dr. James C. Fletcher, the NASA Administrator, does not commit NASA to holding up action until the Controller General study is completed. In fact, Dr. Fletcher indicates the time and effort in the proposed review would be out of proportion to the "benefits to be gained".

I do not intend to lay every Virginia problem at your feet, but I am taking the liberty of contacting you again on this subject in view of a letter dated July 13 from your deputy, Mr. Rourke, to State Senator Herbert H. Bateman, copy of which I also enclose. Those supporting the retention of the helicopter segments at Langley are still hopeful that the implementation of Dr. Fletcher's decision might be deferred until the study proposed by Tom Downing is done.

Any assistance you can render in this connection will be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mills".

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

ten
Enclosures

6



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

*Copy to Bud West
and
Karl R. Hansen*

June 17, 1976

The Honorable Thomas N. Downing
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Downing:

We have received your letter of June 15, 1976, concerning the proposed transfer of major segments of the NASA helicopter research and development program from the Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia, to the Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California.

As we discussed with you and your staff on June 15, 1976, GAO's Logistics and Communications Division will be looking into the proposed move and we will keep you advised as our work progresses. Your colleague, Senator Byrd, also sent in a letter, as you said he would, and we advised him of our agreement with you.

We will also keep his office current on our review efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Peter J. McGough
Legislative Adviser
Office of Congressional
Relations

cc sent ch. to as above.

(E)

June 15, 1976

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accounting Office Building
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Comptroller General:

As you may be aware, NASA Administrator Dr. James C. Fletcher has proposed the transfer of major segments of the NASA helicopter research and development program from the Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia, to the Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California.

While there is unquestionable merit in Dr. Fletcher's desire to consolidate these facilities, I have grave doubts about the cost-effectiveness and practicability of such a move. Dr. Fletcher's plan calls for the headquarters of the helicopter R&D facilities to be located at Ames while lesser supportive units will remain at Langley and at Cleveland, Ohio. If this plan were implemented, the headquarters would exist some 2,500 miles from eighty-five per cent of the contractors with whom it must do business.

I am convinced that the proposed move to Ames would require duplication of extensive research facilities now available only at Langley; would cost the taxpayers a staggering amount of money; and would not be in the best interests of the NASA helicopter mission.

Recently, I was informed that the Office of Management and Budget has been for the past several years critical of NASA's nonuse of the facilities at Ames. I suspect this was a factor in Dr. Fletcher's decision to transfer, and I suggest that nonuse of the Ames facilities might have been caused by "non-need" of them.



The Honorable Elmer B. Staats
June 15, 1976
Page Two

For the foregoing reasons, I believe that a close examination of Dr. Fletcher's proposal is warranted. I would respectfully request that your office undertake such an examination for the purpose of ascertaining the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

I have requested the chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology to schedule oversight hearings on this matter at the earliest possible convenience.

Dr. Fletcher has been informed of my actions and I have requested that he withhold implementation of his proposal until such time as further study may be made of it.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Downing

TND:ge
CC: The Honorable Olin E. Teague
Dr. James C. Fletcher





National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
20546

Office of the Administrator

JUL 21 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Downing:

I fully understand your concern, as expressed in your letter of June 14, 1976, with my decision to name Ames as the lead Center for helicopter research, and I am sorry that you disagree with that decision. However, I am convinced that the decision will result in a NASA helicopter program more responsive to the Nation's needs. Our motivation for creating the Helicopter Management Study Group under Dr. Bruce Lundin was to ensure the best use of NASA's facilities and resources in carrying out the Agency's responsibilities to preserve the role of the United States as a leader in aeronautical research and technology and to support the technology requirements for both civil and military aircraft.

The implementation of the decision does not require or lead to duplications of facilities. The Rotor Systems Research Aircraft (RSRA) will be transferred to Ames, where advanced rotor concepts can be investigated at full scale in the 40 X 80-Foot Wind Tunnel and in flight on the RSRA. As technology dictates, scale-model work will continue to be done at Langley in the V/STOL Wind Tunnel and in the Transonic Dynamics Tunnel in support of the overall helicopter program. The range of cost estimates was such that cost was not a major factor in the decision.

Langley continues to grow in importance, having been assigned the Long Haul Aircraft role which includes research and technology for subsonic transports, supersonic cruise aircraft, and hypersonic aircraft, areas which it is anticipated will expand in importance and effort. The Aircraft

7/23/76

F. Y. I. cc to Bud Whit & G. K. [unclear]

Energy Efficiency program in which Langley plays a major role is an effort directed to fuel conservation through improved aircraft aerodynamics, lighter weight structures and improved propulsion efficiency. The Hypersonic Research Aircraft program and the Large Cargo Aircraft program, both currently under discussion as cooperative efforts with the Air Force, and the Supersonic Cruise Aircraft Research program are examples of efforts which heavily involve Langley. The planned construction of the new National Transonic Facility at Langley will result in a major new facility of importance to future aeronautics research.

Ames has previously been assigned the Short Haul Aircraft role, which includes Vertical and Short Take-Off and Landing (V/STOL) aircraft. The helicopter assignment fits logically with these assignments.

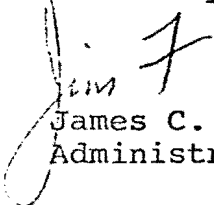
Your reference to "NASA's non-use of the facilities at Ames" I find difficult to understand. The 40 X 80-Foot Wind Tunnel has been operating on a two-shift schedule for the past year and projects are currently scheduled for the next year in advance on the basis of continued two-shift operation. The Ames simulation facilities are also heavily utilized.

Although, as you note, two of the four major helicopter manufacturers are located on the east coast, I consider geography to be less important than other factors just as it is with Long Haul Aircraft in which Langley successfully supports an industry where all three of the major manufacturers are on the west coast.

I plan for the transfer of work to be undertaken with minimum disruption and, sharing your concern for the personnel involved, I fully intend that their wishes be given every consideration possible.

If it is concluded that the merits of my decision should be reviewed by the General Accounting Office and by public hearings, NASA will cooperate fully. However, I cannot help but feel that the time and effort that will be involved in proceeding along those lines will prove to be far out of proportion with the benefits to be gained.

Sincerely,


James C. Fletcher
Administrator

June 14, 1976

Honorable James C. Fletcher
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
400 Maryland Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear Jim:

I appreciate your courtesy in coming by my office last Monday and informing me of your decision to transfer the major part of the helicopter program at Langley NASA to Ames, California.

I have no question about the sincerity of your decision but after much thought I find myself in complete disagreement with your decision. As you know, Langley NASA has been involved in helicopter work for the past 40 years and is uniquely qualified for designation as the NASA Headquarters for the helicopter program.

I am convinced that the proposed move to Ames, California, would require duplication of facilities presently existing at Langley NASA, would be the highest cost move to the taxpayer and would not promote the best interest of the NASA helicopter mission.

I have just learned that the Office of Management and Budget has been for the past several years critical of NASA's nonuse of the facilities at Ames. I would, therefore, suspect this may have been a factor in your decision. I respectfully suggest that the nonuse of the facilities at Ames might have been caused by a "non-need" of these facilities.

It makes no sense to me to locate the Helicopter Headquarters 2500 miles from 85 percent of the contractors



Honorable James C. Fletcher

June 14, 1976

Page two

with whom it must do business. It would cause disruption of work at Langley NASA, relocation of personnel who have made their home on the Peninsula for many years, and would not be the most cost effective way to proceed with this important program.

Accordingly, I have decided to request the General Accounting Office to re-evaluate the merits of this decision and I shall also ask the Honorable Olin E. Teague, Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, to have this matter brought up for consideration before the Oversight Subcommittee.

I hereby request that no steps toward implementation of your decision be taken until the actions of the GAO and the Committee on Science and Technology are completed.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Downing

TWD:nob

cc: House



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 13, 1976

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Due to Jack Marsh's absence from the City, I wanted to further reply to our letter of June 18 in connection with the Langley Research Center.

We are convinced that Dr. Fletcher, in making his decision, gave due consideration to all the relevant factors involved. Also, in our estimation, NASA was very careful to avoid influencing any decision the Army might make regarding its research and development activity or any action that might appear to have an effect on the Army's decision. As you know, the Army has had its plans for an Aviation Development Center under study for some time, and on April 1, 1976, announced that its preferred course of action is to establish its Development Center Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, while maintaining the status quo for all elements outside the St. Louis area.

NASA initiated its study on April 2, 1976, with the first meeting of the Helicopter Management Review Group chaired by Dr. Bruce Lundin, Director, Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Fletcher received the Lundin Group's report on May 28 and announced his decision on June 9, 1976.

Dr. Fletcher has stated that his reasons for making the decisions he did are as follows:

- 1) It consolidates the work most appropriate to the unique facilities existing at Ames, such as, the moving base simulators, the 40 x 80-Foot Wind Tunnel, the Army's helicopter test facility at Hunter-Liggett, and the proximity to the flight test range at the Navy's Crow's Landing facility.
- 2) Ames currently has an integrated helicopter program in support of the Army characterized by excellent communications

between Ames management and the AMRDL headquarters located at Ames. Since one of the goals is to strengthen support of the Army and industry, this existing relationship can facilitate that goal.

- 3) The assignment of Ames is consistent with its Short Haul Mission, its existing Tilt Rotor Research Aircraft Project, and other vertical take-off and landing research activities.
- 4) The designation of Ames provides for an organized sequence of technology development from basic research and technology to full-scale systems.
- 5) Ames, supported in research and technology by the Lewis and Langley Centers, will provide overall direction to the helicopter program. As a significant part in the overall program, Langley retains its responsibility for research in helicopter structures and materials, aeroelasticity, acoustics, avionics, and two-dimensional airfoils. The Lewis Research Center will be responsible for helicopter propulsion systems including the transmission, shafting and engine. This delegation of responsibilities provides for optimal utilization of the total NASA capabilities and facilities as well as allowing greater flexibility to accomplish other high priority programs.

The Lundin group addressed the question of costs associated with the transfer of aircraft, equipment and up to 75 manyears of effort over a period of about three years with the conclusion that the costs will be recouped in a relatively short time from savings accruing in future years.

I am assured that Langley will continue to grow in importance having been assigned the Long Haul Aircraft Mission which includes research and technology for supersonic cruise aircraft, hypersonic aircraft and subsonic transports; areas which it is anticipated will expand in importance and effort. The Aircraft Energy Efficiency program in which Langley plays a major role is a NASA effort directed to fuel conservation through improved aircraft aerodynamics, lighter weight structures and improved propulsion efficiency. The Hypersonic Research Aircraft Program and the Large Cargo Aircraft Program, both currently under discussion as cooperative efforts with the Air

Force and the Supersonic Aircraft Research Program are examples of efforts which heavily involve Langley. The planned construction of the new National Transonic Facility at Langley will result in a major new facility of importance to future aeronautics research. I am assured that Langley is, and will continue to be, a key member of the NASA team.

I hope that the information I have provided will prove helpful to you.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russ Rourke".

Russell A. Rourke
Deputy to Presidential
Counsellor, John O. Marsh, Jr.

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the State of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Bateman:

This is in further reference to our correspondence to you concerning the status of NASA's plans for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.


I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607



September 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PAUL O'NEILL

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Please note the attached letter. This is another closing or substantial move of a military operation which could be troublesome. This letter was carefully drafted for me as a reply but I still have some concerns even though I had earlier communicated these views to the Governor of Virginia.

In all events, I would appreciate your checking this out.

Many thanks.

JOM/dl



September 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Bateman:

This is in further reference to our correspondence to you concerning the status of NASA's plans for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607

NASA/JOM/d1



September 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Bateman:

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NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607

NASA/JOM/d1



September 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Bateman:

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I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607

NASA/JOM/d1



September 21, 1976

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I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman
Senator of the Commonwealth
of Virginia
Newport News, Virginia 23607

NASA/JOM/d1



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1976

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

This is in further reference to my letter to you of August 26 concerning the status of NASA's plans for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

August 26, 1976

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

Many thanks for your letter of August 16 regarding the proposed transfer of certain helicopter programs from Langley to Ames Research Center.

I am looking into this matter, and will contact you in the very near future.

With warmest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

JOM:RAR:cb

to JFletcher - draftyresponse





City of Hampton

OLDEST CONTINUOUS ENGLISH SPEAKING SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA

City Hall

Hampton, Virginia 23669

(804) 723-6011

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor

John L. Tarver, Jr.
Vice Mayor

August 16, 1976

Council

Martha M. Ailor
T. Melvin Butler
John M. Phillips
Tom G. Waters
Charles A. Wornom

Mr. John O. Marsh
Counselor to the President
White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Marsh:

As you are aware, NASA has announced that it intends to transfer a major segment of the helicopter technology mission from Langley to Ames Research Center in California. Further, additional transfers of helicopter research programs, major helicopter developmental programs, and personnel will be included.

It is our opinion that Langley has equal to or superior technical staffs, facilities and industrial support base. Additionally, we strongly question the additional cost which will be incurred to transfer the on-going helicopter programs from Langley to Ames, not to mention the associated resulting delays in helicopter research. I feel it would be most appropriate for NASA to postpone implementation of its decision until the on-going GAO investigation of the cost effectiveness of the move is complete.

Because of NASA/Langley's over thirty years of experience and accomplishments in helicopter research, one billion dollars of applicable research facilities and close proximity to the helicopter industry, it appears it would be in the public interest to continue Langley as the helicopter research center for the country.

Your support in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor

dth

September 21, 1976

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

This is in further reference to my letter to you of August 26 concerning the status of NASA's plans for implementing the decision to name the Ames Research Center as NASA's lead center for helicopter research.

NASA detailed plans for implementing the decision are still in preparation. However, I have been assured that no actual implementation is planned for the next 60-90 days, which should allow time for the GAO to complete its review. If the GAO review is not complete by that time, NASA has assured Congressman Downing that they would review the situation with him prior to actual implementation.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

NASA/JOM/d1



September 21, 1976

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I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

NASA/JOM/d1



September 21, 1976

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With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

NASA/JOM/dl



September 21, 1976

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

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I hope this information is helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

NASA/JOM/d1



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor

September 24, 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

Your note of September 11 is proving very helpful in answering further inquiries concerning the Helicopter Research Center. I appreciate ever so much your prompt advice.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mills -".

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

tg

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219



Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

✓

Jack -

I spoke w/ John Dalton - gave him the report we discussed. He was very grateful and asked me to thank you personally for the information -

Russ

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

September 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

JACK MARSH 

I want you to get into this Governor Dalton matter on the helicopter facility in Virginia.

He wants a call back. His desire is to delay this until after the election. I tried to point out to him that that's a no-no.

We have to take a look at it and see where it stands and you have to put into the posture that we have looked at it and things will have to take their normal course.

Telephone numbers: Office: (804) 786-7882
Home: (703) 639-3984



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
20546

Office of the Administrator

SEP 9 7 1976

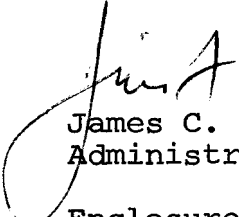
SEP 22 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Jack:


Enclosed is a proposed draft reply to Mayor Kilgore
of Hampton, Virginia, as you requested.

Sincerely,



James C. Fletcher
Administrator

Enclosure



Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, VA 23669

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

As I promised in my note to you dated August 26, 1976, I have looked into NASA's decision to name the Ames Research Center as the lead center for helicopter research and the status of the NASA planning for implementing it.

NASA's plans for implementing the decision are currently in preparation. Dr. Fletcher assures me that every attempt will be made to hold any disruption of the research programs to a minimum and that he expects costs associated with the transfer of certain equipment will be recouped through more efficient operations in future years.

I have also been assured that there will be no actual implementation of the decision for at least the next 60 to 90 days, which I feel should allow time for the GAO to complete its review.

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: JACK MARSH

Please note the attached letter. This is another closing or substantial move of a military operation which could be troublesome. This letter was carefully drafted for me as a reply but I still have some concerns even though I had earlier communicated these views to the Governor of Virginia.

In all events, I would appreciate your checking this out.

Many thanks.

September 30, 1976

Dear Mayor Kilgore:

As I promised in my note to you dated August 26, 1976, I have looked into NASA's decision to name the Ames Research Center as the lead center for helicopter research and the status of the NASA planning for implementing it.

NASA's plans for implementing the decision are currently in preparation. Dr. Fletcher assures me that every attempt will be made to hold any disruption of the research programs to a minimum and that he expects costs associated with the transfer of certain equipment will be recouped through more efficient operations in future years.

It is my understanding that no actual implementation of the plan will take place prior to the completion of the GAO review. It has been speculated that it will be approximately 60 to 90 days before GAO completes its report.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

JOM:RAR:cb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1976

*Hest
Ann H. Kilgore*

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Run call

① Senator

② Mayor

GAO -

60-90 days

~~45-65~~

45-65



~~45-65~~

6-8 weeks -

Report went for
down -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PAUL O'NEILL

FROM:

JACK MARSH

I am not comfortable with this response, unless you feel it is proper.

Could you take a look at this matter and get back to me this afternoon because I want to get something in the mail.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

I want
to Jack
to Paul
McMill to day
re this

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The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

JOM:RAR:cb



THE WHITE HOUSE

The Honorable Ann H. Kilgore
Mayor of Hampton
City Hall
Hampton, Virginia 23669

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
ROUTE SLIP

TO Mr. Loweth

Mr. Mitchell

Take necessary action ☐

Approval or signature ☐

Comment ☐

Prepare reply ☐

Discuss with me ☐

For your information ☐

See remarks below ☐

Ronald M. Konkel

FROM Ronald M. Konkel

DATE 10/2/76

REMARKS

It is not clear to me why Mr. Marsh should be uneasy about the substance of the NASA position on this transfer:

- The July 13 letter to State Senator Bateman provides a detailed explanation of Dr. Fletcher's decision.
- This action is a result of an extensive NASA review of all the Center's "roles and missions" which took many months to complete.
- There is no evidence in this file that the July 13 letter has been rebutted by the critics of the move.
- Implementation of NASA's plan is being delayed for several months, allowing time for an independent GAO review of the matter.

*Have me
call Bush
about this
10/13*

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND SCIENCE

TO : Russ Rourke **DATE** 10/5

FROM: James L. Mitchell

Per our conversation



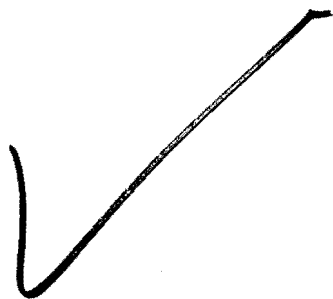
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DO NOT USE FOR PERMANENT RECORD INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1976



MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, I spoke with both Mayor Anne Kilgore and Senator Herb Bateman re the "GAO report/6 to 8 weeks/NASA implementation plan matter.

Both were extremely pleased and expressed their deep appreciation for your follow through.

12
Well
Dave!



October 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: JACK MARSH

Paul, I need right away, for myself and for the President, an up-date and status report on two possible closing actions in the Tidewater area of Virginia.

They are, foremost, a NASA closing involving a Research Center, which is to be moved from Virginia to California, and secondly, a move involving the Air Mobility Command, which will be moved from the ~~Y~~egant Virginia location, probably to St. Louis, if the NASA move takes place. Apparently, these two are mutually supporting.

There has been intense public interest in both of these, from the political and community leaders.

The President will be asked about it by local people, while he is in that area.

Please be sure he has something for his briefing book, and that I also have something.

Many thanks.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK MARSH

FROM: JIM MITCHELL

SUBJECT: NASA Helicopter Research Centers --
Langley (Va.) and Ames (Cal.)

I talked this morning with Dr. Fletcher of NASA and Army Under Secretary Augustine. The following background and talking points might be helpful.

Background

NASA presently operates two helicopter research centers -- one at Langley in Virginia and one at Ames in California. NASA intends to make one center -- Ames -- the "lead" center which will have direct responsibility for results in the program. This is sound management techniques.

At the same time, NASA will continue to operate the center at Langley because certain capabilities such as windtunnels and computer work are unique to that center. Approximately 30 of the 300 helicopter people at Langley will eventually move to Ames. NASA's total strength at Langley is about 3000.

Congressman Downey has asked for a GAO investigation of the NASA decision, and Dr. Fletcher has given his assurance that NASA will not proceed with the move until completion of the GAO investigation.

The real concern seems to be not so much the loss of 30 positions at Langley, but the Army's decision on relocation of its helicopter program personnel currently located at St. Louis. The Army could relocate up to 1500 positions at NASA's "lead" center at Ames. Other Army choices would be to leave the personnel in St. Louis or move them to Langley.

The Army has not announced its intentions except to announce last April the result of a study which listed retention of its center in St. Louis as a preferred option. Army's final decision is not expected until after the election. It will probably decide to leave things as they are -- no move in or out of Langley.

Talking Points (For the President)

- I want to emphasize that Dr. Fletcher has postponed the transfer until completion of the GAO investigation. You can be sure that we will take into full consideration GAO findings and recommendations.
- By the same token, you can be assured that the Army's decision has not yet been made and will be based on the results of further study. As you know, Army's preferred alternative last summer would involve no move from Langley or to Langley.
- However, I should tell you that last year I approved NASA's greatly increased participation in research of composite materials for lighter, fuel efficient commercial aircraft. I think we have got to get the United States ahead of our competitors in Europe on aviation to keep the lead we have always had. I strongly supported this research and I will continue to support this research. Dr. Fletcher tells me that Langley will play a very important role in this growing area of emphasis.

Aircraft Efficiency Programs

<u>1976</u>	<u>1977*</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
4.0	14.9	30.1 (est.)	45.0 (est.)

*Presidential decisions to proceed.

- Last year I also approved a \$65M National Transonic Facility (involving a new, sophisticated windtunnel) at Langley. When completed, this facility will put Langley right in the center of commercial aircraft research revitalization.
- Therefore, I think we can all be confident that Langley will continue to play its important role in aeronautical research.

IMMEDIATE
PRECEDENCEUNCLAS
CLASSIFICATION

FROM: JIM MITCHELL

TO: JACK MARSH

INFO: TERRY O'DONNELL

RELEASED BY:
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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