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Space Station Plans Must Include Military Role

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WASHINGTON — Plans for a future manned space station must be expanded to include military requirements, the director of the nation's Space Station Task Force has told a National Space Club audience.

John D. Hodge of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said that neither the Defense Department nor the Air Force now has requirements for a manned space station.

However, the situation is expected to change, particularly as the Soviet Union increases its space activities.

Hodge spoke of several current "myths" associated with space stations. Among them is one that the Soviet Union does not have a "real space station" in operation.

To the contrary, he said, the Soviets have been operating a station for 10 years "that looks down on the United States every day."

"They must have some reason they are doing this," he added.

Within the next few years, the United States must define what it wants to accom-

plish in space, he told the luncheon guests, including aerospace industry, Air Force and NASA representatives.

Hodge, a former chief of the Flight Control Division at the Johnson Space Center, Tex., said NASA has a goal of obtaining an administration FY 1985 commitment and congressional approval to fund work on a station.

The tab would be \$20 billion for a 15-year program.

Once a decision is made to build a station, it would take four to seven years to complete, he estimated. Since the project would be a first, technical problems can be expected.

The station would not resemble the automated marvel viewed by audiences in the film, 2001: A Space Odyssey. Instead, Hodge said, it would be a modest one, serving as "a jumping off point for the future."

Other "space myths" highlighted by Hodge included:

- The United States lacks a space station program.

Fact — NASA is in the planning stage that includes "looking at ideas," estimating costs and determining the mood of Con-

gress and the public. The task force exists.

- The space shuttle can be used as a space station.

Fact — The shuttle is a means of transportation — a truck. Hodge noted that care must be taken in how the shuttle is used. Also, NASA does not have to choose between the need for a fifth orbiter or a space station, as has been charged, he said.

- Technology exists for building a space station.

Fact — Much of the technology exists only in textbooks. There is no practical skill for constructing a station when some components will be made separately on Earth and in space. "Don't let anyone tell you we don't have a technology problem here," Hodge said.

- Computers can be substituted for man in space.

Fact — Man is only on the verge of understanding the application of computers or taking advantage of automated systems. The knowledge of artificial intelligence is nil. "When it comes to computers we are not as smart as we think we are," Hodge said.

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Bill Would Make Space Command Triservice Unit

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's new Space Command would become a triservice operation with the job of deploying and operating all strategic defensive equipment if Congress approves a legislative package intended to make nuclear weapons obsolete.

Introduced by Rep. Ken Kramer (R-Colo.), the plan also would create a new Army command, as an element of the unified space organization, to be responsible for ground-based air and missile defense through new technology.

Navy's contribution, as Kramer envisions it, would include its space directorate now in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Given the vulnerability of U.S. naval forces to Soviet targeting and delivery systems, he said, inclusion of the Navy in the proposed command is essential.

The bill, which Kramer calls the People Protection Act of 1983, also would:

- Create a Directed Energy Systems Agency, possibly under Defense, dedicated

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A Trade Dispute Within the Administration

The Reagan administration is involved in another dispute over trading with communist countries—but unlike last year's squabble over the Soviet natural-gas pipeline, this problem is strictly intramural. Officials of the U.S. Commerce Department have been trying for more than a year to persuade the Defense Department to drop the licensing rules Communist-bloc countries must follow to buy American-made items such as personal pocket computers, electrocardiograph machines and digital thermometers. Although all the products contain sophisticated computer chips, the Soviet Union and its allies can purchase similar goods from other countries with little trouble. In addition, Commerce has asked Defense to abolish licensing requirements for such nonstrategic materials as baby formula, disposable diapers, panties, sausages and commercial refrigerators. But the Defense Department refuses. A senior Commerce Department official attributes the problem to institutional stubbornness. "They just won't decontrol. It's mindless."

to R&D work on laser, particle beam and microwave technologies.

Kramer said no federal agency exists today that concentrates on such work and that efforts are fragmented, uncoordinated and underfunded.

- Transfer from NASA to DoD whatever space shuttles are required for national security missions and leave NASA to concentrate on manned space stations.

- Realign the entire U.S. policy-making process for strategic, space and arms control policies.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD

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Even before a U.S. military adviser was slain in San Salvador, American intelligence officials were receiving evidence that left-wing rebels in El Salvador had put together a "hit list" of targets for assassination, including U.S. military officials and Salvadoran political and church leaders who support the government.