

Space shuttle station desired by Florida, California, others

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla. (AP) — Quietly and outside the limelight, a big battle is shaping up among various states for a huge economic prize: location of the launching base for the space shuttle of the future.

Cape Kennedy, from where man first went to the moon, is the leading contender in the treasure hunt.

But its premier position is being threatened by California and

New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah also are in the running, but are given only the slightest chance to pick the plum.

At stake are billions of dollars, thousands of jobs and a possible economic boom for the area that wins the launching site for the shuttle, the reusable spaceship, scheduled for operation later this decade.

Politicians and lobbyists, backed by hundreds of thousands of dollars, are hard at work in Washington, trying to convince President Nixon and Congress that the space shuttle should be launched from their respective states.

A decision may come later this year.

Cape Kennedy is the leading candidate because the National Aeronautics and Space Administration already has invested \$1.5 billion here for land and for launch and support facilities for the Apollo moon program and other projects.

But the shuttle will be a unique craft, and some advantages that favored Cape Kennedy on earlier programs might now work to its disadvantage.

The complex vehicle is being

developed to ferry men and supplies between the earth and orbiting space stations. It will be a fully reusable two-stage craft which will take off vertically.

The booster stage, the size of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet and manned by two pilots, will kick the orbital section into space and then turn around and fly back to the launch site, landing on a runway like a conventional aircraft.

The Boeing 707-sized orbital section, with two pilots and 12 or more passengers and 50,000 pounds of cargo, will continue to the space station. It later will return to earth with equipment and passengers from the space lab. It also will land like a plane.

Both segments of the shuttle will be designed to fly 100 or more times, greatly reducing the cost of operating in space. The pricetag for the Saturn 5 rocket and spaceships for the current Apollo moon launch program is \$325 million and none of the hardware is reusable.

One Cape Kennedy disadvantage for the shuttle is that the launch area is nearly surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. That made it ideal for the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs and unmanned launchings because the no-longer-needed booster rockets were dumped into waters offshore without endangering populated areas.

If either the booster or orbital section of a space shuttle should stray on takeoff or landing, it might land in the ocean's salt water. Recovery would be difficult and the resulting corrosion could render it no longer useable.

The other candidate states, noting this and other Cape weaknesses, began touting their areas many months ago.

California is backing either Edwards Air Force Base or Vandenberg Air Force Base.

New Mexico favors its White

Sands Missile Range, and Utah is pushing Wendover Air Force Base on the Utah-Nevada line. Oklahoma has suggested Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base.

Most observers feel Utah and Oklahoma are out of the running and their campaigns have been lukewarm compared with the others.

A 12-man NASA facilities group headed by Robert H. Curtin will make the choice, probably late this year.

NASA originally had hoped to begin flight-testing the shuttle in 1974 and to have an operational version ready to support a 12-man space station by 1976, with the station growing to 50 or more men and women by 1980.

But Congress has been reluctant to vote heavy funding at a time when the country has more earthly problems. As a result all target dates have slipped at least two years.



THE WINNER of a seat as one of the first two women aldermen in Chicago lights up a cigar to prove that this symbol of political victory is not merely a male prerogative. Running as a Democrat, Marilou McCarthy Hedlund defeated Republican Alderman Robert C. O'Rourke in the north side's 48th Ward. (AP Wirephoto)

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23 courses required Basic fireman program asked

Minimum training for firemen and instructors employed by the state's 53 paid municipal departments has been recommended by members of the new Texas fire commission.

The recommendations will be sent to every department affected for a public hearing April 27 in Austin, reports Henry D. Smith of College Station, chairman of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel Standards and Education.

Smith said the commission recommends that a new fire-fighter complete 23 required courses for 325 credit hours within one year of joining a department. The fireman will be certified upon completion of the courses.

A grandfather clause is included, Smith explained, for firemen working when the requirements become law.

Texas law enforcement officers already have similar certification requirements.

Smith, chief of the Firemen's Training School at A&M, emphasized that recruit training will require paid departments to become more professional.

A&M began a 240-hour recruit school last fall, with classes beginning every six weeks.

Also recommended were four levels of certification for fire department instructors. Committees were named to recommend standards for fire department inspectors and arson investigators.

"The objective is not only mutual aid between departments, but the development of educational programs that are the same for every department," Smith noted.

"Through this training the fire departments will be able to give more effective service for the local tax dollar and bring the professional standards higher than they are now," he added.

The fire commission was authorized by the legislature in SB 269 approved in June, 1969.

Smith said the four instructor levels are basic instructor, instructor, advanced instructor and master instructor.

Basic instructors must have experience in the subject area taught and complete at least one 30-hour methods of teaching course conducted by an educational agency approved by the Texas Education Agency.

Advanced instructor certificates would be awarded full-time training officers who complete methods of teaching, five 45-hour vocational teacher training courses approved by the Texas Education Association and 15 semester hours of college-level courses in communications and administration.

The vocational courses include organization and use of instructional materials, analysis and course making, training center and classroom organization-management, aims and objectives of vocational education and human relations communications.

A master instructor must meet all other qualifications, hold an associate arts degree in fire technology from a junior college and be a full-time instructor or administrator in a fire training vision.

Smith said he expects a big demand for the 30-hour master course. He has doubled the size for the course during the annual municipal training school at A&M this summer.

Austin District Chief Tom Pinckney is commission chairman and Lubbock Chief Hershel Sharp is secretary.

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