

# National

## Military ties mean more secrecy for shuttle flights

United Press International  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The space shuttle's military connection is going to change the way some things are done at the Kennedy Space Center.

Many of the satellites and experimental equipment the reusable rocket plane hauls into orbit in the future will be secret Defense Department payloads. Some are expected to be spy satellites, some will be missile attack warning spacecraft and others will test experimental space defense systems.

That means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which operates the space shuttle, will no longer be able to run a completely open space program. Secrecy will be imposed on some operations for the first time in more than a decade.

"It's going to make us have to do things differently and be more cautious in certain areas," Richard Smith, director of the NASA's Kennedy Space Center, said.

The first Air Force payload, a classified experiment that will remain in the shuttle's cargo hold, is scheduled to fly on the shuttle's fourth test flight next spring.

The spaceport already is modifying a firing room in the

shuttle launch control center for military missions. The control room's electronic systems are being changed so the information they process will be available only to personnel with the proper security clearance.

Similar steps have been taken at the mission control center at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The Department of Defense payloads will be readied for flight in Air Force facilities at the cape. These facilities already are secure and will be loaded aboard the shuttle on the launch, thus reducing the need for special security precautions in the shuttle's checkout hangar and assembly building.

When the shuttle is flying a military payload, NASA will be able to say little about the mission. There even was consideration at one time of withholding the shuttle launch date from the public and trying to launch the massive space machine in secret.

An example of Air Force secrecy was the launch early Saturday morning of a secret satellite on a Titan 3C rocket. The launch was not announced ahead of time and, even though there were large numbers of reporters in the area to cover the flight of the Columbia, they

were not aware of the military launch.

The Air Force afterwards would only confirm that a Titan 3C had been launched and said merely that the launching was successful.

Sources in Washington said proposals to try to hide a space shuttle launching at the cape were rejected as impractical and excessive.

"I think we'll still be able to announce launch dates and have people in to see (the launchings)," Smith said in an interview while the shuttle Columbia was being readied for its second test flight.

But Smith said the fact that some missions will be classified is going to make it difficult for NASA officials when they discuss shuttle operations with the news media.

"If we're flying a non-DOD payload, there are no inhibitions about talking about various things," he said. "And on a DOD payload there will be."

"That creates an interesting dilemma for all of us. If I can talk to you about something on one flight and not the next, that's going to make us awfully cautious so we don't trip up."

"I think it will cause people to be much more inhibited in talking period, even though it's a non-classified payload."

## Large farmers get big bucks

# Farm payments exceed limit

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — In spite of a legal limit of \$40,000 on the amount of direct federal deficiency payments that can be paid a farmer, 52 American farmers collected more than \$100,000 in 1978.

Overall, large farmers got the bulk of direct payments. These deficiency payments are paid to farmers when market prices fall below target levels.

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture study concluded that exceeding the \$40,000 limit was possible because the law applied to people rather than farmers. If the responsibility for producing crops on a single farm can be divided among several individuals, each can qualify for payments.

The study was part of former Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland's review of the structure of agriculture that studied economic causes of the increase in the size of American farms and the decline in the number of farms.

Some of the studies started by Bergland are still trickling out of the department even though Agriculture Secretary John Block has shown little interest in the structure project.

The study, entitled "Farm Commodity Programs: Who Participates and Who Benefits?" said that farmers with large holdings collected 53 percent of wheat program benefits.

The nation's largest farmers got 41 percent of feed grains payments, 66 percent of cotton program payments and 48 percent of rice payments.

Average payments per farmer

ranged from \$363 for those with less than 70 acres to \$36,005 for farmers with 2,500 acres or more.

Another way of expressing the bigness bias is that 10 percent of the participants in the program, farmers with 500 acres or more, got nearly half the payments.

Fifty percent, farmers with less than 140 acres, received about 10 percent of the benefits.

The \$40,000 limit on payments was part of the 1977 farm law that expired Sept. 30. By this year, the limit had risen to \$50,000.

Both the House and Senate versions of the pending farm bill contain a continuation of the \$50,000 limit. Rep. Silvio Conte, R-Mass., dropped plans to propose an amendment to reduce the limit to \$20,000.

The study showed that payments were most popular in the North Central and Plains states. For example, 77 percent of North Dakota farmers participated in the program. But in Illinois only 20 percent of farmers participated.

Overall, 739,000 farmers, about a third of America's 2.4 million farmers, participated in the program.

The study concluded that the

payment limitation had small impact on payment distributions in 1978. Only 1,184 producers had to give up some money because of the \$40,000 limit.

They gave up \$24 million, a small percentage of the \$2 billion paid out to farmers in 1978.

The 1,184 producers gave up an average of \$20,000. Nearly 90 percent of them had farms of at least 2,000 acres and most of them were corn and wheat farmers.

Study authors William Lin, James Johnson and Linda Calvin concluded, "More severe restrictions on who could qualify for

payments would probably have only a minimal effect on distributing the payments more evenly to small farmers."

They said direct payments to farmers can't be blamed for the trend toward investment in agriculture by absentee owners.

"Land appreciation and capital gains taxation appear to be stronger influences," they said.

Prohibiting payments to corporate farms or absentee owners "could have an impact, but would not significantly change the degree of non-farmer investment in agriculture," they said.

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## Motion filed in protest of KKK camps

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A federal judge plans to rule later this year on a request from the state attorney general to shut down Ku Klux Klan paramilitary training camps.

Attorney General Mark White, in a written motion submitted

Tuesday, described the KKK's paramilitary arm as fully capable of violent action in a petition for a federal order to close its training camps.

White filed the shutdown petition in a lawsuit by Vietnamese

fishermen against the Klan. U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald, who said she would rule on White's petition later this year, in

May ordered the Klan to stop harassing Vietnamese fishermen in the Kemah-Seabrook area.

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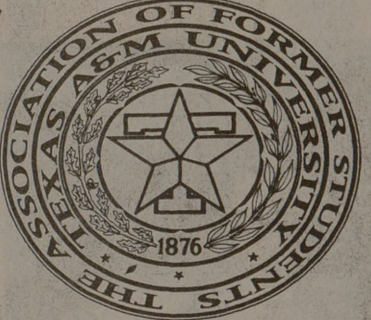
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