



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Office of Commercial Space Transportation Collection [Johnson]

Patti Williams

2020

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Office of Commercial Space Transportation Collection [Johnson]
<b>Date:</b>	1986
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2020.0015
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Office of Commercial Space Transportation Johnson, Sara Madeline
<b>Extent:</b>	0.79 Cubic feet (2 letter document boxes.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of documents relating to Madeline Johnson and her role as Director of the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST).

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Estate of Sara Madeline Johnson, Gift, 2020, NASM.2020.0015

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Office of Commercial Space Transportation Collection [Johnson], NASM.2020.0015, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

President Reagan signed Executive Order 12465 on February 25, 1984, designating the Department of Transportation to be the lead agency for commercial expendable launch vehicles. Later that year, the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST) was established and placed in the Office of the Secretary. Madeline Johnson was selected by then Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole to be the Director of OCST in 1986. During her tenure, Johnson worked to build a cross-government coalition to persuade President Reagan to create the opportunity for a private-sector satellite launching industry; this was especially needed as the Challenger accident had grounded Space Shuttle missions. The OCST was moved

from the Office of the Secretary and today resides with the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The OCST now gives final approval of any commercial rocket launch operations involving a U.S. launch operator or a launch from the U.S.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of documents relating to Madeline Johnson and her role as Director of the OCST, including agendas, memorandums, reports, presentations, her statements in front of Congress, and newspaper articles. Of special interest are the Economic Policy Council's Commercial Space Working Group documents and recommendations to President Reagan on commercializing satellite launches.

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## **Arrangement**

No arrangement.

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## **Names and Subject Terms**

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronautics and state
- Rocketry
- Satellites
- Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)
- Space industrialization