

HANDLE VIA **BYEMAN**
CONTROL SYSTEM
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

ALTERNATIVE OPERATIONAL/INFORMATION PLANS FOR AN
EARTH-ORBITING TEST OF THE UPWARD CAMERA

PROBLEM:

At its Fourth Meeting, on 9 February 1967, the Manned Space Flight Policy Committee directed the Survey Applications Coordinating Committee to "... undertake immediately to devise detailed [REDACTED] for the procedural handling of information related to and products resulting from the earth orbital test flights of the LM&SS (UPWARD). The SACC will report its findings and recommendations to the MSFPC at the earliest possible date."

BACKGROUND:

The 28 August 1963, "DOD/CIA-NASA Agreement on NASA Reconnaissance Programs," the 24 March 1964 "Security Annex," and the 20 April 1964 "DOD/NASA Agreement on the NASA Manned Lunar Mapping and Survey Program" established the basic policies and security requirements for Project UPWARD. In these documents, the DOD agreed to give NASA all possible assistance in making site selections for the manned lunar landings and, specifically, to furnish the finest available reconnaissance camera from the National Reconnaissance Program for that purpose. NASA made it clear that UPWARD would be an essential step in selecting Apollo landing

Handle via **BYEMAN**
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

3A
Copy 1 of 8 Copies
Page 1 of 9 Pages
Control No. 67E52199/67

HANDLE VIA **BYEMAN**
CONTROL SYSTEM
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: G/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

sites to supplement the data to be obtained by the on-going Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor programs. NASA's secondary objective of mapping, surveying, and scientifically exploring the moon using the UPWARD camera was to be "fallout" in meeting the primary objective of site selection.

CURRENT STATUS:

NASA's plans have recently undergone a significant change. The UPWARD program will probably not be required for the initial Apollo lunar landing site selection and the major focus of the program is now toward the selection of landing sites for follow-on surface exploration, and for general lunar orbital exploration. The proposed earth-orbiting tests of the UPWARD camera are to certify the camera for these follow-on applications.

The action item passed to the SACC by the MSFPC implies that a "full-up" earth-orbiting test is to be made of UPWARD. The value of useful photography -- in fact of any photography -- on the earth orbiting test should be assessed against the risks to the National Reconnaissance Program and the possible adverse international reaction to NASA and the United States.

Handle via **BYEMAN**
Control System
UPWARD

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:

The following possible courses of action are presented for consideration in the event that it is decided that an earth-orbiting test is essential.

Alternative 1. A NASA Camera Carrying Leader Only.

In an open press conference, held in the near future, NASA reaffirms the fact that the camera is being developed by the DOD but will be flown and operated by NASA. From that point on NASA maintains a "don't volunteer information" position, carefully avoiding making obligations to its own people, the scientific community, and other governmental agencies as regards the camera's product. If NASA feels a statement is absolutely necessary, it may state, at the pre-launch press conference, that the camera will carry leader (non-emulsified film) only. If pressed to defend this decision, NASA may point out that (1) photographs are not essential to this test; (2) the camera is for lunar surveying only; and (3) NASA wishes to avoid any possible misunderstanding of its camera test.

Advantages:

1. Has all the security advantages of a true story; easy to handle from a security point-of-view.
2. The camera receives a complete functional test; however, photographic performance is not demonstrated.

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~TOP SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System
UPWARD

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

~~TOP SECRET~~

3. No troublesome photographic images can be produced.
4. Eliminates, in advance, arguments over release and exploitation of the "take".

Disadvantages:

1. Possibly not credible to the American public which may doubt that pictures were not taken.
2. Possible not credible to foreign countries which may believe that NASA is withholding photography of them. This belief could impair NASA's present excellent rapport with friendly foreign nations.
3. Shows an apprehensive attitude toward satellite observation (contrary to policy stated in NSC Action Memorandum 2454).
4. NASA open to academic/scientific criticism for illogically missing an opportunity to do an earth survey or to "calibrate" the product for later comparison with photographs of the moon.
5. Does not provide a complete dress rehearsal for a Lunar Mission.

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy 2A of 8 Copies
Page 2

Handle via BYEMMA"
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

Alternative 2. A NASA Camera Limited to Taking Pictures of
Calibration Sites in the U.S. With No Release of Pictures.

In an open press conference, held in the near future, NASA reaffirms the fact that the camera is being developed by the DOD but will be flown and operated by NASA. From that point on, NASA maintains a "don't volunteer information" position, carefully avoiding making obligations to its own people, the scientific community, and other governmental agencies as regards the photographic products. If NASA feels a statement is absolutely necessary, it may state, at the pre-launch press conference, that the camera is programmed to photograph selected calibration sites in the United States. The pictures are for engineering purposes only and will not be released (by agreement they will be in the T-KH system). If required to defend this decision, NASA may point out that the purpose of the flight is to test the camera for lunar applications, not to make an earth resources survey.

Advantages:

1. This has all the security advantages of a true story.
2. The camera receives a complete functional and performance test and photography is available for calibration of later photographs of the moon.
3. Less illogical to the public mind than Alternative 1; some pictures are taken.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy 2A of 8 Copies
Page 1 of 8 Pages

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

Disadvantages:

1. More difficult to handle, from a security point-of-view, than Alternative No. 1.
2. Possibly not credible to foreign countries which may believe that NASA is withholding photography of them. This belief could impair NASA's excellent rapport with friendly foreign nations.
3. Knowledge of the existence of a photographic product may generate so much public interest and pressure that political considerations will demand its release.
4. "Hiding" a technical product could conflict with the public image of NASA and be difficult to defend.
5. NASA would still be open to academic/scientific criticism for illogically missing an opportunity to do earth survey work.

Handle via BYEMAN

~~TOP SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

Alternative 3. A NASA Camera Limited to Taking Pictures of
Calibration Sites in the U. S. With Degraded Pictures Released
to the Public.

Degraded survey camera pictures consistent with the quality
of NASA Lunar Orbiter photography of the moon would be released.

Advantages:

1. Preserves NASA's image of openness
2. Provides a planned step toward increasing international acceptance of orbital reconnaissance and sets the stage for release of high-quality lunar photography.
3. Provides a complete functional and performance test.
4. The data obtained could be of use in planning the NASA Earth Resource Survey Program.
5. Results are consistent with the state-of-the-art as shown by contemporary Lunar Orbiter photography of the moon.

Disadvantages:

1. Has all the disadvantages of a false story.
2. Could raise the question of the authenticity of the photographs in the minds of independent experts.
3. Requires an amendment of the agreement that all earth photography will be handled in the T-KH system.

Handle via BYEMAN

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy-3A of 1

Handle via **DYEMAN**
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

Alternative 4. A DOD Camera (1) Carrying Leader Only or (2)

Limited to Taking Pictures of Calibration Sites in the U. S.

In an open press conference, held in the near future, NASA reaffirms the fact that a camera is being built for it by the DOD. The camera will be turned over to NASA for lunar mapping and survey work as soon as it has been qualified satisfactorily in earth orbital test. The DOD will conduct these tests on an up-coming Apollo Applications Program flight. With this statement NASA passes the main responsibility for public relations and information release on this first flight to the DOD. The DOD, when queried for details, states that its activity in this regard is a typical example of NASA -DOD cooperative enterprise and it has been pleased to make its finest technology available to NASA. When pressed for more information regarding the camera, the DOD will state that details of configuration and performance reflect advanced states of the art and are classified. The DOD will not respond to queries regarding photography. In response to query, NASA may give public assurance that lunar photographs taken under NASA aegis will be made available to the public.

Advantages:

1. Has all the security advantages of a true story; easy to handle from a security point-of-view.

2. The idea that the DOD must flight qualify the camera

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System
UPWARD

~~TOP SECRET~~

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

before turning it over to NASA is credible.

3. The camera receives a complete functional test in Case (1) and a complete performance test in Case (2).

4. Shifts public focus to the DOD, where "no comment" is an acceptable reply to public inquiry. Moves the entire security problem into an experienced, controlled security environment.

5. Eliminates, in advance, arguments over release and exploitation of the "take".

6. Preserves NASA's image of openness in its own experiments and activities.

Disadvantages:

1. Could raise questions connecting Apollo Applications Program with certain alleged DOD activities such as SAMOS and "spy-in-the-sky."

2. Could provoke some international speculation as to whether the DOD is hiding behind a NASA cover for reconnaissance work.

3. Foreign country concern over "military" activities of NASA could jeopardize present agreements over tracking sites and cooperation in future programs.

4. Could create for NASA intra-NASA, academic, and other governmental agencies pressures and criticisms.

Handle via BYEMAN

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy 2A of 8 Copies
Page 0 of 6 Pages