STIC: MOL
POLICY: MOL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPLY TO ATTN OF: SAF-OIPC

10 January 1966

SUBJECT: (U) Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Information Plan

TO:

AAC	AFSC	CONAC	SAC	ACIC
ADC	ATC	HQCOMD USAF	TAC	AFAFC
AFCS	AU	MAC	USAFE	OAR
AFLC	USAFSO	CINCPACAF	USAFSS	USAFA

(Office of Information)

1. ~~(C)~~ Forwarded for information and/or appropriate implementation is the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Information Plan. Strict adherence to the policies and procedures contained in this plan is vital to MOL program success. Any questions regarding interpretation of the direction in the plan should be referred to SAF-OIP.

2. ~~(C)~~ Request you insure that all personnel and organizations within your sphere of activity, that may in any way become involved in any type of information activity relating to MOL, are aware of this plan and understand the importance of following it closely. This includes contractors.

3. (U) Local reproduction of the plan is authorized.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

E. B. LeBAILLY
Major General, USAF
Director of Information

Atch
MOL Information Plan

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR. 5200.10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C.
January 5, 1966

INFORMATION PLAN

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TITLE: Information Responsibilities for Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program (MOL)

REFERENCES:

1. Air Force Information Plan 63-6, TITAN III 6 June 1963
2. Department of the Air Force Letter:

   "Security Policy and Procedures, MOL Program," (Confidential), 25 February 1965, to Hq AFSC (MSF)
3. AFSDC-S message #89459 (Confidential), 26 February 1965

1. TASK ORGANIZATIONS:

   U. S. Air Force (SAF-OI)

   Air Force Systems Command

   U. S. Navy (CHINFO)

   Participating Contractors

2. PURPOSE:

   To establish general information policies and responsibilities relative to the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program (MOL).

3. OBJECTIVE:

   To provide for a carefully planned program of public information on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program which can be released as required.

4. SITUATION:

a. Background

(1) Study of military manned space concepts by the Air Force goes back to about 1958. Since then, various concepts and design proposals were studied. These included the Military Test Space Station (MTSS); NASA's Manned Orbital Space Station (MOSS); the Military Orbital Development Systems (MODS) --- which provided specific hardware proposals and clearer concepts --- and, a National Orbital Space Station (NOSS).

(2) On 10 December 1963, the Secretary of Defense announced the assignment of a space program to the Air Force and identified it as a "near-earth Manned Orbiting Laboratory."

(3) On 23 January 1965, the Secretary of Defense announced the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFP's) from industry for design studies to assist in developing cost and technical information required to proceed with full-scale development of the MOL. At that time, DOD outlined broadened guidance concerning the program.

(4) On 1 March 1965, the Department of Defense announced that the Air Force had selected four contractors to perform preliminary design studies for the MOL. The four were selected from seven contractors which responded to the RFP's. The four announced were: Boeing Company, General Electric Corporation, Douglas Aircraft Company, and Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. Each contractor was to perform 60-day design studies at a cost of about $400,000 each.

(5) On 25 August 1965, President Johnson announced that he was instructing the Department of Defense to proceed with MOL, and that Douglas and General Electric had been selected to carry out the developmental work required. The President indicated that initial unmanned and manned launches of a fully-equipped laboratory were expected to take place in 1968.

b. Policy

(1) The mission of MOL will be described solely as that of learning more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability can be used for defense purposes. The research and experimental nature of MOL will be emphasized. Statements or connotations that MOL is to be an operational system or an intermediate step toward an operational system will be avoided.

(2) No special effort will be made to justify the MOL program publicly. The objective is not to generate publicity, but rather to provide enough material to respond to legitimate public interest in the program and to cope with its international repercussions.

(3) Public information on MOL will be carefully planned to avoid or minimize international controversy or apprehension. This will be especially important at the time permissible information on the operational phase will be released at or near launching times. All public information releases or statements on MOL made by representatives of any Executive Department or Agency will process for approval through a single DOD point of review --- the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Directorate for Plans and Programs, which will be responsible for clearing before release. with the Bureau of

Public Affairs, Department of State. Public releases will deal exclusively with nonsensitive technological or other aspects of the MOL program, such as the booster system, the life support system, engineering for long life in orbit, launching technology, communications plans, biomedical experiments, and the like. Military objectives, operational goals and capabilities will not be discussed in public information releases.

(4) All MOL launchings will be included on the U.S. portion of the United Nations' registry of satellite launchings.

(5) Public Affairs policy and guidance not otherwise included in this plan (or referenced) will emanate from OASD(PA) (or SAF-OI subject to the approval of OASD/PA). Such guidance will be coordinated in advance with State by OASD(PA).

(6) Proposed public participation or appearance of designated MOL astronauts will be forwarded to SAF-OI for action. Participation of Navy astronauts will be coordinated with Navy Office of Information (CHINFO) by SAF-OI. SAF-OI will process these proposed appearances through OASD(PA), which will coordinate with State.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. Within the policies approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), the Director of Information, Office Secretary of the Air Force (SAF-OI), is responsible for implementation of this plan and overall monitorship.

b. Air Force Systems Command will carry out Information actions for SAF-OI as outlined in this plan and future annexes and/or specific procedural plans to be developed.

c. Agencies of the U.S. Navy, as well as the Air Force, participating in the MOL program will follow the policy and procedures in this plan.

d. All Major Commands will follow closely the policies and procedures of the MOL Information Plan.

6. INFORMATION ACTIONS:

a. Tasks

(1) SAF-OI will:

(a) Assign a qualified Information Officer as a single point of contact to work in the Office of the Director, MOL. He will serve as a single point of contact for information activity and will prepare answers-to-queries to be used as required in the accomplishment of this very limited information program. All SAF-OI divisions will assist this officer as required.

(b) Monitor implementation of this Plan.

(c) Prepare and/or recommend specific items of public interest pertaining to U. S. Navy MOL activities for submittal to CHINFO for release through Navy information channels, and/or OASD(PA).

(2) AFSC will:

Coordinate the Information activities of all participating AFSC divisions and centers along with those of the contractors and insure their compliance with this plan.

(3) Major Air Commands will:

Provide support to SAF-OI and AFSC as may be directed.

(4) U.S. Navy will coordinate any proposed information activity relating to MOL with OASD(PA) and SAF-OI prior to execution.

b. Procedures

(1) News Releases:

Proposed releases concerning the MOL program will be submitted through channels to the OASD(PA) for approval. Information will be submitted for clearance as early as practicable in order that sufficient time can be allotted to the extensive inter-agency coordination required prior to approval.

(2) Speeches:

Speeches concerning the MOL program will be discouraged, and must not be made without specific authorization by the OASD(PA). References to the MOL program in public addresses on related or other topics will be held to an absolute minimum and will also be subject to review and approval by the OASD(PA).

(3) Answers to Queries:

Answers to queries may be provided only within the context of the aggregate of material that has been released officially since the Presidential announcement of August 25, 1965. A resume of this material is attached. Queries which do not fall within the aggregate will be submitted through channels to OASD(PA) for review and guidance, as appropriate.

(4) Proposed changes to this plan:

Proposed changes to this plan will be submitted to SAF-OI for approval subject to policy decisions of OASD(PA).

(5) Information annexes:

The Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF-OI), is assigned the responsibility for the preparation of an annex to this plan which treats in detail the planned actions for each significant scheduled event in the MOL program including the following:

Selection of astronauts

Contract awards

TITAN IIIC test launchings

First "all up" launching

First unmanned launch

Selection of crew and backup crew for first manned launching

First manned launch

(6) Coordination:

The Directorate for Plans and Programs will be the focal point within OASD(PA) to assure necessary coordination is accomplished; within DOD coordination will include as a minimum OASD(ISA), ODDR&E,

SAF-SS, and SAF-OI. In addition, coordination will be accomplished with State, USIA, and NASA.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

E. B. LeBAILLY
Major General, USAF
Director of Information

Attachments

1. Presidential state, 25 August 1965
2. Department of Defense release, 25 August 1965
3. Fact Sheet
4. Approved Questions and Answers

Extract From
THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF AUGUST 25, 1965

MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY

After discussion with Vice President Humphrey and members of the Space Council, as well as Defense Secretary McNamara, I am today instructing the Department of Defense to immediately proceed with the development of a manned orbiting laboratory.

This program will bring us new knowledge about what man is able to do in space.

It will enable us to relate that ability to the defense of America.

It will develop technology and equipment which will help advance manned and unmanned space flight.

It will make it possible to perform very new and rewarding experiments with that technology and equipment.

The cost of developing the manned orbiting laboratory will be $1.5 billion.

Unmanned flights to test launchings, recovery, and other basic parts of the system, will begin late next year or early 1967. The initial unmanned launch of a fully equipped laboratory is scheduled for 1968. This will be followed later that year by the first of five flights with two-man crews.

The Air Force has selected the Douglas Aircraft Co. to design and to build the spacecraft in which the crew of the laboratory will live and operate. The General Electric Co. will plan and develop the space experiments. The Titan IIIC booster will launch the laboratory into space and a modified version of the NASA Gemini capsule will be the vehicle in which the astronauts return to earth.

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

August 25, 1965

PRESIDENT APPROVES DOD DEVELOPMENT OF MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY

The President announced today at the White House that he has approved the Department of Defense proceeding with the development of a Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) at a cost of $1.5 billion.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara recommended the action to the President after discussions with the Vice President and members of the Space Council.

The Air Force has selected the Douglas Aircraft Company to design and build the spacecraft in which the men will live and operate. It has chosen General Electric Company to plan and develop the space experiments.

The TITAN IIIC booster will launch the laboratory into space and a modified version of the NASA GEMINI capsule will be the vehicle in which the astronauts return to earth.

The primary objectives of the MOL program are to:

(a) learn more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability can be used for military purposes.

(b) develop technology and equipment which will help advance manned and unmanned space flight.

(c) experiment with this technology and equipment.

Unmanned flights to test launching, recovery and other basic parts of the system are due to begin late next year or early 1967. The initial unmanned launch of a fully-equipped MOL is scheduled for 1968. This will be followed later that year by the first of 5 flights with two-man crews.

Astronaut candidates will be military test pilots and graduates of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

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On the basis of Department of Defense-NASA studies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will decide which of its scientific or technological experiments are carried out in the MOL. These will not interfere with DOD experiments.

The MOL project was begun in December 1963 when the DYNASOAR, a project dating from the 1950's, was cancelled. At that time it was decided that DOD's manned space efforts should be concentrated on finding what man can do in space and getting the equipment to help him do it.

The MOL program to date has cost $30 million. Another $150 million is in the FY 1966 budget.

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FACT SHEET

MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY (MOL) PROGRAM

Chronology

On December 10, 1963, the Secretary of Defense announced the assignment of a space station development program to the Air Force to determine the usefulness of man in space for defense purposes. He identified it as a "manned orbiting laboratory." Both in-house and industry studies were undertaken on various concepts and design proposals for the MOL.

The program was broadened in January, 1965, to include development of technology to improve the capabilities for manned and unmanned experimentation. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were issued for design studies to assist in developing cost and technical information required to proceed with full scale development of the MOL.

Four contractors were selected in March, 1965, to perform preliminary design studies for the MOL vehicle.

The Air Force presented a program proposal to the Secretary of Defense who later recommended approval to the President, after discussions with the Vice President and members of the Space Council. The President instructed DOD to proceed with the program on August 25.

The Air Force selected Douglas Aircraft Company to design and build the laboratory in which the men will live and work. General Electric Company was selected to work on the task of experiment integration.

On August 31, the Secretary of the Air Force designated General Bernard A. Schriever as Director of the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program--in addition to his duties as Commander, Air Force Systems Command. Brigadier General Harry L. Evans was named Vice Director of the program, and Brigadier General Russell A. Berg was assigned as Deputy Program Director in charge of the MOL Systems Office located in Los Angeles, Calif.

The first eight out of a planned total of 20 aerospace research pilots were assigned to the program on November 12, 1965.

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Program Plan

The primary objectives of the MOL program are to:

- Learn more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability relates to the defense of the nation.

- Develop technology and equipment which will help manned and unmanned space flight, and to experiment with this technology and equipment.

The MOL aerospace research pilots will be launched into space inside a modified Gemini spacecraft by a Titan III booster. Once in orbit, they will enter the laboratory attached to the spacecraft through a hatch in the heat shield.

The laboratory will be designed to allow them to work in a "shirt-sleeve" environment--that is, without space suits--for up to 30 days. For return to earth they will go back into the Gemini spacecraft, detach the laboratory and re-enter the atmosphere for an ocean landing and pickup.

The initial unmanned launch of a fully-equipped MOL is scheduled for 1968. This will be followed later that year by the first of five flights with two-man crews.

NOVEMBER 1965

ANSWER TO QUERIES MAY BE GIVEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ATTACHED MATERIAL THAT HAS BEEN RELEASED OFFICIALLY

1. Q. What is the MOL project?

A. A manned space flight project, of a research and experimental nature, which will put two men into space for periods of up to 30 days, in a "shirt-sleeves" environment, with the object of finding out more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability might be related to defense purposes. Five such manned launches are presently planned, starting in 1968. MOL experimentation will run into the 1970's.

2. Q. Who will carry out the project?

A. The U.S. Air Force, under the direction of the Department of Defense. The Douglas Aircraft Company and the General Electric Company will build the spacecraft and plan and develop the experiments respectively. MOL flights will be directed by the Air Force Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, California. We anticipate that MOL launches will be carried out from both the East and West Coast.

3. Q. What kind of experiments will be conducted?

A. The project directors will be considering for some time yet what defense-related experiments would seem to offer the most promise, but there is interest by the Air Force in building and assembling large antennae for communications purposes, and by the Navy in experiments of potential usefulness in antisubmarine warfare. The Army has not as yet recommended any experiments. Other representative examples of defense research that might be carried out would be experiments dealing with space structures technology, guidance and navigation, and extra-vehicular activity and equipment. In addition to defense related experiments, scientific experiments devised by NASA may be included.

4. Q. What is the relationship between MOL and nuclear weapons in space?

A. There is no relationship whatever. The MOL is a military program which is peaceful --- i.e. non-aggressive --- in character. MOL will not be a bomb carrier.

At the same time that he announced the decision to proceed with MOL, President Johnson reaffirmed the U.S. intention not to place weapons of mass destruction in orbit. The President said "We continue to live up to our agreement not to orbit weapons of mass destruction and we will continue to hold out to all nations, including the Soviet Union, the hand of cooperation in the exciting years of exploration which lie ahead for all of us."

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By way of background, two years ago the U.S. and USSR each stated it would refrain from orbiting weapons of mass destruction in outer space or stationing such weapons on celestial bodies. The U.S. and Soviet statements were expressly welcomed by the UNGA in resolution 1884 (XVIII) adopted unanimously October 17, 1963, as an important step in preventing the spread of an arms race to outer space. The resolution calls on all states to refrain from conducting or encouraging such activities.

5. Q. Doesn't the MOL approval nevertheless mean that the U.S. has embarked on a new policy with respect to military activity in space?

A. No, it does not. The MOL fits into and is a logical next step in a continuing U.S. military program in space which derives from our Space Act. The Act itself makes clear that the U.S., while seeking to help develop space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, intends to utilize its space activities in maximizing its defensive capability.

The MOL was first announced in December, 1963, at the time when DYNASOAR, a military manned spaceflight project dating from the 1950's, was cancelled. DYNASOAR was cancelled because it was aimed solely toward the development of advanced reentry techniques. MOL began to be studied at that time because it seemed to give promise of being a broader and more useful research and experimental program, focussing on man himself in space rather than machinery, equipment, and techniques as such.

6. Q. Won't the MOL approval touch off a military space race with the Soviets?

A. We see no reason to think this. The Soviet Union has for some time been carrying out a comprehensive space program involving manned and unmanned flights of various kinds, and doubtless will continue to do so. The U.S. has no desire or intention to engage in a military space race with the USSR. Our only intention is to take those measures in space as elsewhere that responsibility and prudence dictate in terms of our national security. The decision to proceed with the MOL is motivated by the need to do more research; it is not a reaction to any Soviet space project, program, or statements.

7. Q. Why does this have to be a manned operation; couldn't unmanned satellites do the job?

A. If there were a computer which did not have to be programmed and could therefore think independently, and had eyes and hands to be put at the service of that thinking ability, the human element might well be taken out of the manned orbiting laboratory project. Despite the onrush of automation, this is not the case now or in the foreseeable future. Man still has a unique role to play on the land, sea and in the air for many defense and other purposes. The MOL project is a research effort to see whether this is true in the new environment of space as well.

8. Q. Will the TITAN IIIC as it is now configured be used to launch the Manned Orbiting Laboratory?

A. As previously stated, TITAN III consists of a family of vehicles in our building block concept. This family may run from the use of the TITAN III core alone to the use of the TITAN III with 7 segment 120 inch solid motors, or 2 or 3 segment, 156 inch solid motors. For MOL we anticipate TITAN III with the 7 segment 120 inch motor.

9. Q. Why do you need a 7 segment 120 inch rather than 5 segment?

A. We must be prepared to launch the MOL from the Western Test Range and to do this requires more thrust than that necessary from the Eastern Test Range.

10. Q. Are you planning to launch the MOL from the Cape and from Vandenberg AFB?

A. Yes we are.

11. Q. What launch will take place out of the Cape and what will take place out at Vandenberg AFB?

A. This will be determined later on basis of experiment schedule and orbits desired for each flight.

12. Q. Where will the MOL mission control be located?

A. From Eastern Test Range on the East Coast and the Air Force Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California.

13. Q. Will TITAN III still continue to be launched from Cape Kennedy following the research and development program?

A. Yes TITAN III will be used for the Initial Defense Communication Satellite Program plus any other payloads assigned to us.

14. Q. Will you build a fully equipped Integrate Transfer Launch (ITL) facility at Vandenberg AFB; and when will this be available?

A. We are planning to build an initial launch capability at Vandenberg AFB. This consists of one pad where the vehicle will be built up on the pad and we anticipate having a launching capability in mid-1968.

15. Q. Have you acquired the land for your launching facility at Vandenberg AFB.

A. No.

16. Q. What is meant by a "shirt-sleeves" environment?

A. An environment spacious enough and safe enough to enable men to live, move, and work in it without having to use space suits. The MOL was once described by Secretary McNamara as intended to be about the size of a small house trailer; what is now envisaged is a laboratory "canister" about 40 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, joined to a GEMINI capsule, the whole thing to be launched by a TITAN IIIC booster. Each man will have about 400 cubic feet of space in which to live and work.