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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 SEP 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory Monthly Status Report

The attached Status Report on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program covers activities through August 31, 1967 and is submitted in accordance with the August 16, 1967 memorandum from the Office of the Secretary.

for Stewart
JAMES FERGUSON
General, USAF
Director, MOL Program

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a/s

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I. PROBLEMS

None.

II. CHANGE PAST MONTH

A. Briefing to COMIREX

General Stewart gave a MOL Program briefing on August 3, 1967 to the newly-constituted Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation. The briefing was attended by a rather large group -- from 25 to 30 -- and was well-received. Aside from the usual questions requiring clarification, the main thrust of the discussion was aimed at the deletion of the Data Readout System from MOL. It was clear from the reaction of the Committee that COMIREX questions the decision to delete Readout from the baseline MOL Program.

B. Briefing to the Reconnaissance Panel of PSAC

On August 29 an extensive, all-day review of MOL was conducted by the PSAC Panel. The briefings began with an overview of the results of the current GAMBIT-3 program in an attempt to draw parallels in the learning process. The Committee was dissatisfied with the current performance of GAMBIT-3 and insisted that MOL make all efforts to assure that it, indeed, will deliver the specified (████████ resolution) performance on the first flight. The Chairman expressed some doubt whether that goal could be achieved on the first flight. The review of progress on MOL was very well-received. The Panel was obviously impressed with the progress made in facility construction and the stage of test hardware production. The Chairman, Dr. Land, is still skeptical about the usefulness of man in MOL, although his attitude is becoming increasingly more positive, particularly in the context of his suggestion to use an image enhancing device within the astronaut's Acquisition and Tracking Scope. This would overcome some of the viewing difficulties the MOL crew might have because of low contrast conditions at typical targets. The Panel also expressed its concern about the deletion of the Readout System from MOL since this does restrict the utility and flexibility of the manned system as compared to the unmanned system equipped with multiple re-entry capsules.

C. Mission Planning and Evaluation Software

The Systems Office completed contract negotiations on August 18 with TRW for the Mission Planning and Evaluation (MP&E) Computer Programs for MOL reconnaissance operations. Estimated cost for the CPIF contract

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is \$2.44 million. The computer programs to be developed under this contract are the ground software which will select operational sequences for the camera and two telescopes from the list of targets provided by the USIB. Some existing computer programs can be used or modified to meet MOL Program requirements. The contract includes (1) studies and analyses of various photographic and operating problems associated with the DORIAN system which will influence design of computer programs; (2) design, development, test and evaluation of the required computer programs; (3) initial support and training to Air Force personnel on the computer programs which are delivered; and (4) operational support and maintenance needed to improve, modify or maintain the MP&E software through Flight 7.

III. CURRENT STATUS

Funds

Of the \$120,000,000 (FY 68) released by DoD to MOL on July 1, approximately \$113,400,000 will be obligated by September 30. After review of actual August contractor expenditures, the MOL Program Office will prepare a request to DDR&E for release of additional FY 68 deferred funds.

IV. FORECAST FOR FUTURE

A. Secretary McNamara Visit

The Secretary of Defense will visit Eastman Kodak on September 14 for a review of Eastman and General Electric MOL status and progress. The Secretary is scheduled to depart Washington at 4:30 P.M. and return at 11:30 P.M.

B. Executive Council Meeting

The MOL Executive Council will meet at the General Electric Valley Forge Space Technology Center on October 17, 1967. This group, which is composed of senior Air Force and Industry MOL managers, was established to provide a forum for the periodic exchange of views between Government and Contractor management.

V. DUE DATE FOR NEXT PROGRESS REPORT

The next monthly MOL Progress Report will be submitted October 6, 1967.

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