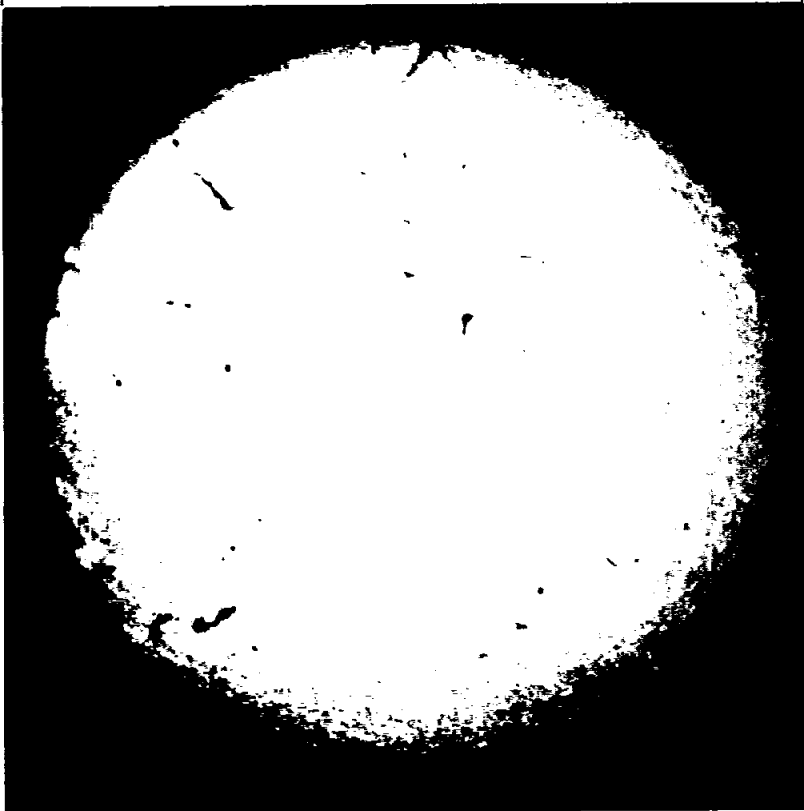


MSC Records Solar Flare



SUN HOT SPOT—This photo which clearly shows a recent flare on the Sun was made by the automatic 35mm camera housed in the solar telescope at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center. The telescope, part of the Solar Particle Alert Network, recorded this event at 11:05 a.m. CDT on July 8. A bright importance 3 solar flare—the bright spot on the left side of the Sun—interrupted radio communications throughout the world. Scientists with MSC's Space Physics Division said this particular flare would not have interfered with normal mission operations during an Apollo lunar mission.

ROUNDUP

NASA MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER

HOUSTON, TEXAS



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JULY 19, 1968

Health Forces John S. Bull To Quit Astronaut Program

A pulmonary disease about which little is known has forced Lt. Cdr. John S. Bull, 33, to withdraw from the astronaut program, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Tuesday.

Bull reported Tuesday to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, for an examination to determine whether he is medically fit to remain on active duty in the Navy. He has been placed on non-flying status.

MSC medical authorities said the disease is uncommon and has been defined in only the past few years. It has no medical name, but is sometimes called "Aspirin Asthma." Its cause is unknown, and there is no cure.

The disease is characterized

by three factors: (1) chronic sinusitis, (2) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and (3) marked sensitivity and intolerance to aspirin.

Doctors said the disease is not a true allergy and is much more serious than asthma. It most frequently strikes young men in the late 20's and early 30's and is a progressive disease, they said.

Lack of knowledge of the disease restricts treatment to alleviation of the symptoms. Medical research on the disease is being conducted. Climate and environment apparently do not cause the disease or affect its progress, doctors said.

Bull's problem first became apparent in August 1967, when he was treated for sinusitis. In November, he developed a slight cough, and in January 1968, he experienced his first asthma-like attack.

Bull is one of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966. He was assigned to the crew for Lunar Test Article-8 thermal vacuum tests, but was replaced because of the medical problem. In addition, he has been



a member of the support team for the third manned Apollo mission.

Bull's departure leaves 53 astronauts active in the NASA program.

Bull, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, is married and has a 2-year-old son. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Rice University. Prior to joining the astronaut team, Bull was a Navy test pilot.

Automatic Weather Station In Gulf To Aid LRD Water Test Schedules

A new facility recently installed in the Gulf of Mexico by the Manned Spacecraft Center's Landing and Recovery Division, as an aid to test schedules for qualifying spacecraft and supporting recovery equipment, will no doubt be of interest to area boating enthusiasts and fishermen.

The installation, located about 25 miles south of Galveston on a Shell Oil Company rig, is an automatic weather station which measures and transmits wave height, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, air and water temperature.

This information is transmitted to the U.S. Weather Bureau Office at Galveston, where the data are recorded and the information is then supplied to the Spaceflight Meteorology Group at MSC as required to support LRD test programs in the Gulf.

The U.S. Weather Bureau at Galveston will also make this information available to the public. Initially, the data will include wind direction, velocity and wave height and later temperature and relative humidity will be added. This information will be available every three hours and if weather conditions should warrant, will be disseminated hourly.

MSC's Landing and Recovery Division is involved in numerous operational test programs requiring the at-sea testing and qualification of spacecraft and supporting recovery equipment. These tests are normally carried out in the Gulf of Mexico, from

the NASA Motor Vessel Retriever, under operating conditions which closely simulate the actual ocean environment in spacecraft recovery operations.

The majority of the LRD tests are performed subject to specific minimum and maximum weather constraints and some tests require an accurate knowledge of the actual wave heights and periods. Initially, the tests were conducted on weather forecasts with visual observa-

tion and estimations during the actual test.

To facilitate this type of testing and to improve test schedules and quality of information, it was decided to install a weather transmission site on-board an offshore oil platform in close proximity to the area where testing is normally carried out. The Shell Oil Company authorized MSC to install this equipment on its Buccaneer Platform A, located approxi-

(Continued on Page 2)



WEATHER STATION BASE—The new automatic weather station recently installed by MSC's Landing and Recovery Division in the Gulf, is located on this Shell Oil Company platform 25 miles south of Galveston. The telemetry and transmitter equipment is located in a small building at the base of the micro-wave tower and an antenna on the tower is used to send the data to the U. S. Weather Bureau office in Galveston.

Proposed Apollo Experiment To Observe Fires In Space

The zero-gravity environment of space may be a natural fire extinguisher. Limited results from zero-g aircraft studies show that during periods of weightlessness convective air currents are not produced by a flame as they normally are on earth. As a result, oxygen supplies are not replenished, and a fire tends to suffocate in the products of its combustion.

J. H. Kimzey of the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center's Structures and Mechanics Division has developed an experi-

ment which may be flown on Apollo Applications missions to learn more about how fires behave in a zero-g environment.

Of particular interest is the kinetic energy which, as observed in aircraft studies, is still present after the visible flame is extinguished. MSC engineers want to know how long after a flame is smothered it could be rekindled if a fresh supply of oxygen is furnished by forced convection or a return to

(Continued on page 2)

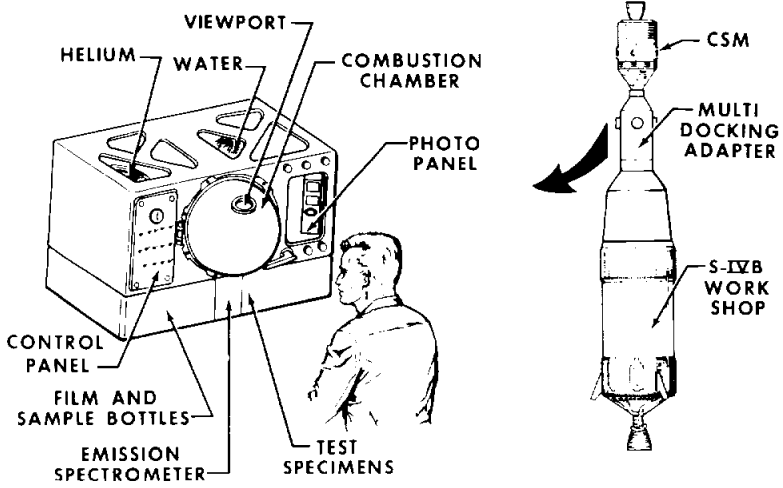
Apollo 7 Status

AT ROUNDUP PRESS DEADLINE

The spacecraft for Apollo 7 is in the altitude chamber at the Kennedy Space Center. An unmanned altitude run preparatory to manned runs has been delayed first by problems with an S-band power amplifier and later by telemetry dropouts. Duration of the unmanned run, which could later come at any time, is about 12 hours at altitude. The manned run with the prime crew of Astronauts Schirra, Eisele and Cunningham would follow about three days after the unmanned test. During this test the crew would spend some nine hours in the spacecraft most of the time in a 100 per cent oxygen environment at five pounds per square inch.

The launch vehicle for Apollo 7 is erected on Launch Complex 34. The first stage is undergoing engine purge and propulsion checks and the second stage propulsion system checks are continuing. The second stage J-2 engine has been modified to prevent the problem which occurred during the Apollo 6 test earlier this year. This modification covers strengthening the propellant lines leading to the augmented spark igniter on the engine. Guidance and control tests of the instrument unit are continuing this week.

**AAP EXPERIMENT M-479
ZERO GRAVITY FLAMMABILITY**



Flammability Experiment

(Continued from Page 1)
gravity. They also will want to learn more about how fires spread in a weightless environment. Will gases of combustion propel burning materials into new areas creating secondary fires? And how far must two flammable objects be separated in zero-g to prevent a fire's spreading from one to the other?

Methods of extinguishing fires in space are also of interest, particularly fires which must be extinguished in a breathable cabin atmosphere, with a minimum of toxic or irritating by-products.

The MSC experiment calls for installation of a 1.1 cubic foot pressure chamber in the Apollo Applications, S-IVB Multiple Docking Adapter (MDA). AAP crewmen would conduct the experiments, observing, photographing and taking radiometric readings on some one hundred flammability tests.

Fuels such as polyethylene, mylar, nylon, polyurethane, polycarbonate, cellulose and teflon will be electrically ignited inside the chamber while the results are observed and recorded through glass ports.

The atmosphere of the chamber will be oxygen at 5 PSIA, and the chamber will be equipped with a fan to reproduce convective air currents that would normally be set up by spacecraft ventilating systems and astronaut movement. There will also be provisions for evaluating water, helium and vacuum extinguishment systems.

The equipment will be de-

signed for six months life in orbit so that revisits may enable further testing after replenishing fuels, film and extinguishing agents.

Most of the design, development and production of the chamber and its support equipment will be done in-house at the Manned Spacecraft Center. Pending final definition of the experiment, it is expected NASA will award a contract for fabrication of an emission spectrometer. The spectrometer will be used to measure infra-red, visible light and ultra-violet energy levels during flammability tests.

Weather Station . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

mately 25 miles south of Galveston. Shell has provided this, as well as other assistances in the past, at no cost to the government.

The weather station is automatic in operation and normally transmits for 21 minutes every three hours. Provision is made to transmit on a continuous mode if required, and also from external battery packs if power is lost aboard the Shell platform.

By utilizing electronic equipment on hand in the Electronics System Section of the LRD Recovery Electronics Branch, the cost for the weather recording and transmission facility was kept to a minimum. Actual cost was less than \$7,000. Leroy Penn of LRD was the project engineer for the installation.

Mission Trajectory, Systems Analysis Contract To TRW

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has awarded TRW, Inc., TRW Systems Group, Redondo Beach, Calif., a contract for work on the mission trajectory control program and Apollo spacecraft systems analysis program for the Manned Spacecraft Center.

Under the contract, TRW provides work in the areas of flight control computer program development, trajectories, orbital maneuvers, range safety analysis and mission error analysis for the Mission Planning and Analysis Division at MSC. For the Apollo spacecraft program office, the contractor performs studies, technical fact finding and evaluation, technical systems analysis and investigations.

Estimated value of the cost-plus-incentive award-fee contract is \$27.6 million.

Astronomy Group To Show Slides Observatory Trip

The next MSC Astronomical Society Meeting will be held 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 24 in building 336 at Ellington AFB. The program will include slides of the club's recent trip to the McDonald Observatory. The book, *Red Giants and White Dwarfs*, will also be discussed.

The next observing night will be July 26 if the weather is clear. For further information on the club call William Chanis, 4371.

Nobel Prize Winner Speaks At Seminar On Venus Atmosphere

Dr. Willar F. Libby, Nobel prize winner will be the speaker Tuesday on "Atmosphere of Venus" at a seminar sponsored by the Science and Applications Directorate.

Dr. Libby is from the University of California, Los Angeles. The program is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Building 1 Auditorium.

Your Job in Focus

Disability Retirement Procedures Changed to Strengthen Due Process

Major procedural changes in the handling of Federal employee disability retirement cases initiated by agency managers have been approved by the Civil Service Commission. The changes became effective for claims received in the Commission on or after July 1.

Cardinal features of the changes, which were developed by the Commission after lengthy consultation with agencies, personnel directors, employee union officials, and medical practitioners, are:

- The employee for whom disability retirement is sought will have the right to be informed, to be heard, and to be represented at all stages.
- Specific steps will have to be followed by agency management in referring employees for physical or mental examinations.
- Clear-cut avenues of appeal will be prescribed for both the employee and the agency.

Objectives of the new procedures are to provide Federal employees with maximum assurance of fair treatment and a just decision in all cases where disability retirement is initiated by management, while at the same time offering to agencies logical and equitable means for the retirement of employees whose disability is detrimental to the accomplishment of Federal missions.

Health Benefits Open Season Scheduled for November '69

The next open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program has been scheduled for November 10-28, 1969. There will be no open season in 1968.

During the open season in 1969, eligible employees who are not enrolled in a health

benefits plan will be permitted to enroll. Employees who are already enrolled in a plan will be able to change to another plan or option.

Co-op of Month



VALUABLE STAFF MEMBER — A senior at the University of Houston working toward a degree in electrical engineering, Widge Stambach has been performing all the impurity diffusions required to make silicon integrated circuits in the lab of the Flight Data Systems Branch, IESD. His supervisors state that he has proven himself to be a valuable and dependable member of the staff and capable of assuming considerable responsibility.

Gaseous Nebulae, Magnetic Fields, Seminar Subjects

"Physical Processes In Gaseous Nebulae" will be the subject of a Space Physics Division seminar today at 3 p.m. in Room 193 of Building 31.

The speaker will be David Van Blerkom, research assistant, Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

A seminar on "Quasars and Galactic Magnetic Fields" will be presented at the same location next Friday, July 26 at 3 p.m.

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas, and is published every other Friday by the Public Affairs Office for MSC employees.

Director Dr. Robert R. Gilruth
Public Affairs Officer Paul Haney
Editor Terry White
Staff Photographer A. "Pat" Patnesky

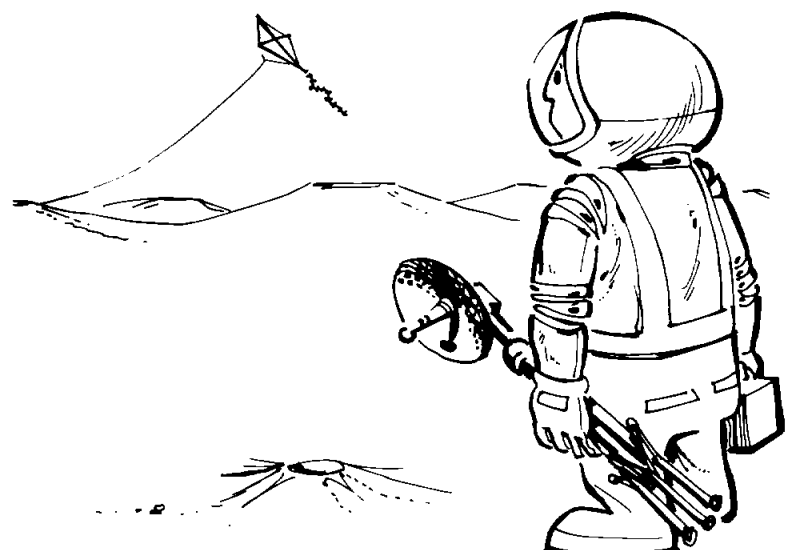
Getting The Word On The Future



CO-OP BRIEFING—To help keep the MSC co-ops up to speed on the NASA programs, seminars are conducted periodically in various areas of the Center. Above, William E. Stoney, chief of the Advanced Spacecraft Technology Division conducts a recent seminar for the MSC co-ops on the topic "What After Apollo." Some 70 students attended the seminar.

THE ASTRONUTS

(filched from TRW Systems Group)



Apollo 7 Crew To Benefit From High School Girl's Suggestion

A chemical sensing device developed from the suggestion of a seventeen-year-old California high school chemistry student, Stephanie Black, will enlarge the confidence of Apollo 7 astronaut crewmen in their

crew drinking water.

The detection system must be able to discriminate between small quantities and large quantities of highly alkaline potassium hydroxide in the water of the fuel cell, where a large amount

out loud at home one evening when Stephanie, his step-daughter, suggested the use of Hydrion paper, a relatively new type to which she had been introduced in her high school chemistry class.

Unlike ordinary litmus paper, which NR engineers were then considering, Hydrion paper not only detects alkalinity; it also indicates its quantity.

Thompson obtained samples of Hydrion paper from Stephanie's high school chemistry teacher. He sent them to the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center where they were qualified for use as a back-up for the more sophisticated electronic sensors in the Apollo 7 spacecraft, in which Astronauts Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Walter Cunningham and Donn F. Eisele fly the first manned Apollo mission late this year.

Dr. Gilruth, in his letter to Stephanie thanking her for her contribution to the Apollo program, said: "Sometimes it takes the fresh outlook of someone detached from the manned space flight program to hit upon what might seem to be the obvious solution to the problem. Perhaps all the engineers working in the Apollo program should have bright and imaginative daughters as a back-up."

Miss Black is now in her freshman year at Golden West Junior College, Huntington Beach, California, and plans to earn a degree in science.

could cause corrosion damage to the cell and contaminate the drinking water.

Two years ago, engineers of North American Rockwell's Space Division at Downey, California, where the Apollo spacecraft is being built, began looking for a simple, reliable back-up system to the electronic sensors in the fuel cell.

North American Engineer Don Thompson was thinking

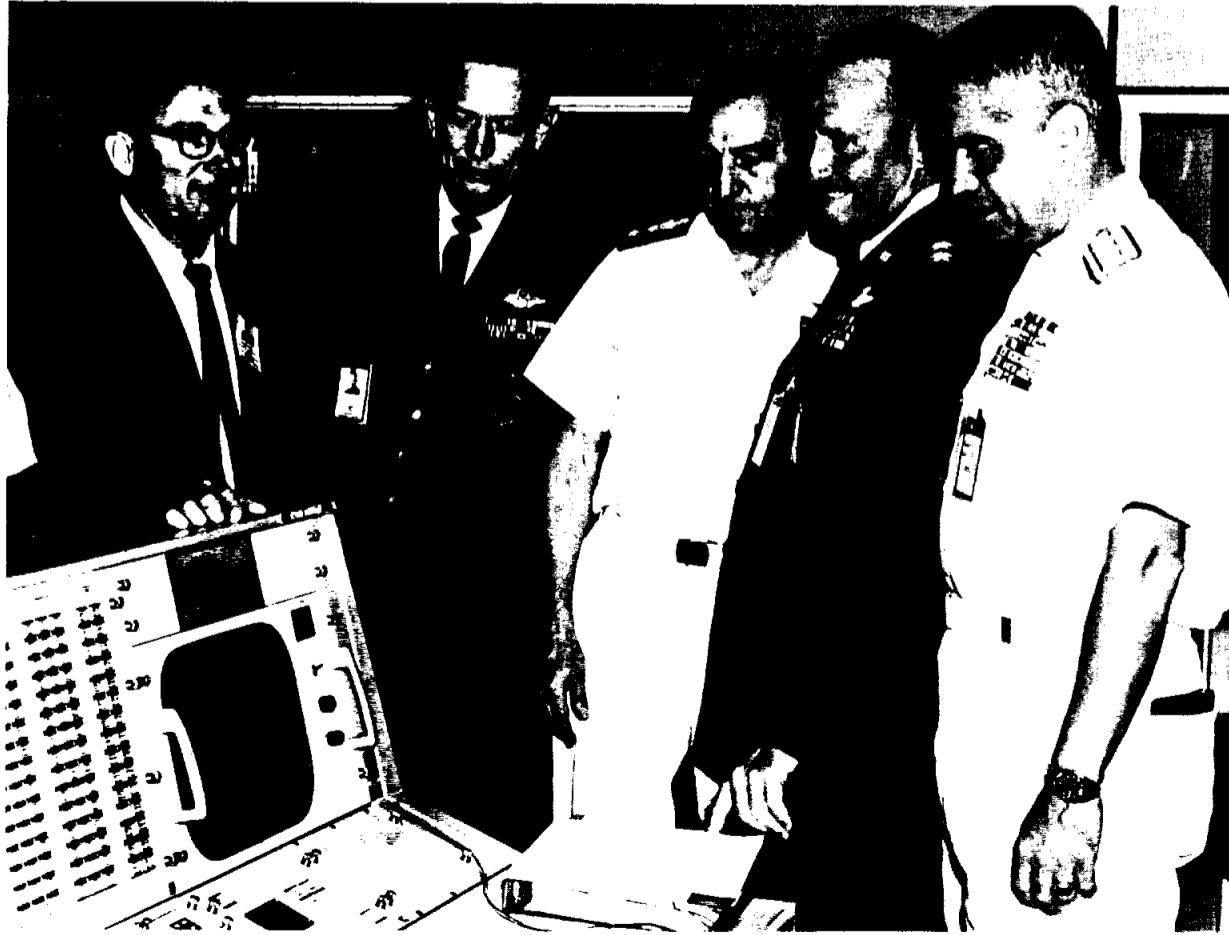


CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER—Stephanie Black (second from left) whose suggestion led to the development of a chemical sensing device for Apollo fuel cells is shown with the letter she received from Dr. Robert R. Gilruth. Bill Gray, manager of the Resident Apollo Spacecraft Program Office, Downey (l.) presented the letter and Stephanie's mother, Mrs. Diane Thompson and stepfather, Don Thompson proudly stand by their daughter.

spacecraft fuel cell power system.

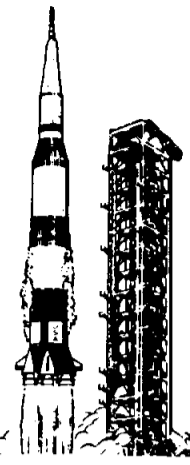
Stephanie has a letter from Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, Director, Manned Spacecraft Center, attending to the value of her suggestion that Hydrion paper be used as a back-up to electronic sensors to warn of an impending failure in the Apollo 7 fuel cells that generate electrical power for the spacecraft and provide an important by-product for the

New Atlantic Recovery Force Chief

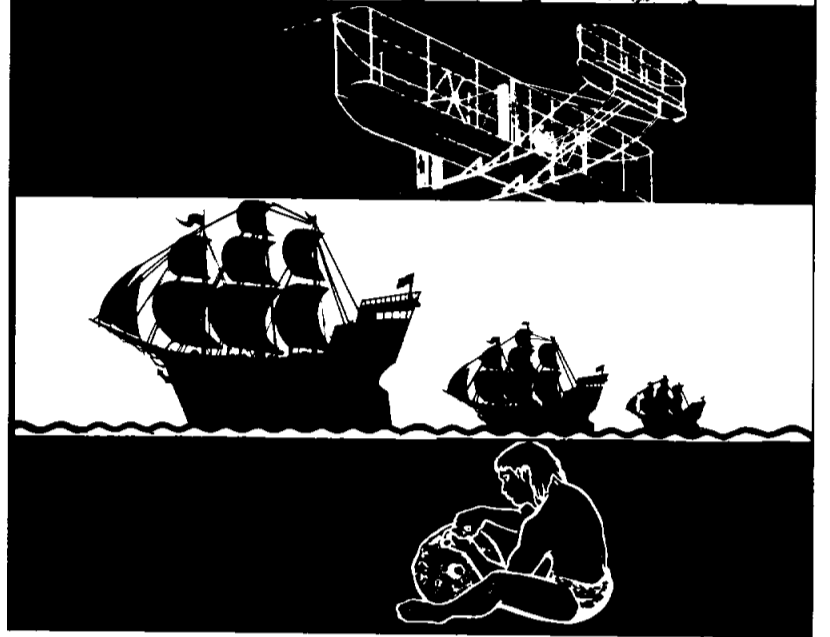


INTRODUCTORY TOUR—Rear Admiral Philip McManus, (right) new Commander-In-Chief Manned Spaceflight Recovery Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Va., here at Manned Spacecraft Center last week to meet with Landing and Recovery Division people, is shown on a tour of the Mission Control Center. Accompanying Admiral McManus on the tour were (l. to r.) Jerome Hammack, Chief, Landing and Recovery Division; Colonel Royce G. Olson, Director of DOD Managers' Manned Spaceflight Support Office, Patrick AFB, Fla. Rear Admiral T. A. Christopher, who has served his tour of duty and is being replaced by McManus; and Major General Vincent Huston, DOD Manager for Manned Spaceflight Support Operations, Washington, D. C.

THE
BIG
STEP..
NEEDS
YOUR
HELP!



AWARDS AND COST REDUCTION PROGRAM



Most Powerful Nuclear Rocket Passes Tests At Jackass Flats

The most powerful nuclear rocket reactor Phoebus 2A was successfully tested June 26 at the Jackass Flats, Nevada, Nuclear Rocket Development Station.

Phoebus 2A was the 12th nuclear rocket reactor designed and developed by Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory to be tested since the first Kiwi series in July 1959. The laboratory in New Mexico is operated by the University of California for the Atomic Energy Commission.

During this test the Phoebus 2A reactor was operated at significant power for a total of about 32 minutes, including 12 minutes above 4,000 megawatts; the peak power reached was about 4,200 mw. The equivalent of 4,000 megawatts is about

200,000 pounds of thrust.

The test was terminated when limits set by available propellant and water were reached.

The primary objective of the test was to obtain data on this advanced reactor at intermediate and high power levels, high power density, and high temperature operation. Included were experiments to get data on a new method of reactor control using the liquid hydrogen in the core to regulate the fission process.

The tests were part of the nuclear rocket program — a joint program of the Atomic Energy Commission-National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop the technology of nuclear-powered rockets capable of extensive space exploration.



NUCLEAR ROCKET FIRING—The nuclear rocket reactor Phoebus 2A (right) is shown (left) in a successful test firing June 26 at the Jackass Flats, Nevada, Nuclear Rocket Development Station. The tests are part of a joint nuclear rocket program of AEC-NASA to develop a nuclear rocket engine for propulsion in deep space exploration missions.