

To: Distribution

30 December 1963

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: FILM CONDITION IN RECOVERED M-26 SRV

9062

The retrieval of exposed payload spools from USE 642 disclosed some critical anomalies. Special precautions were taken, and special care was exercised to assure the following:

1. The cassette temp sensors were verified as fully operational and sensitive.
2. The recovery battery heaters were operational and properly stasured.
3. The recovery battery was at full charge, and would not accept additional charging.

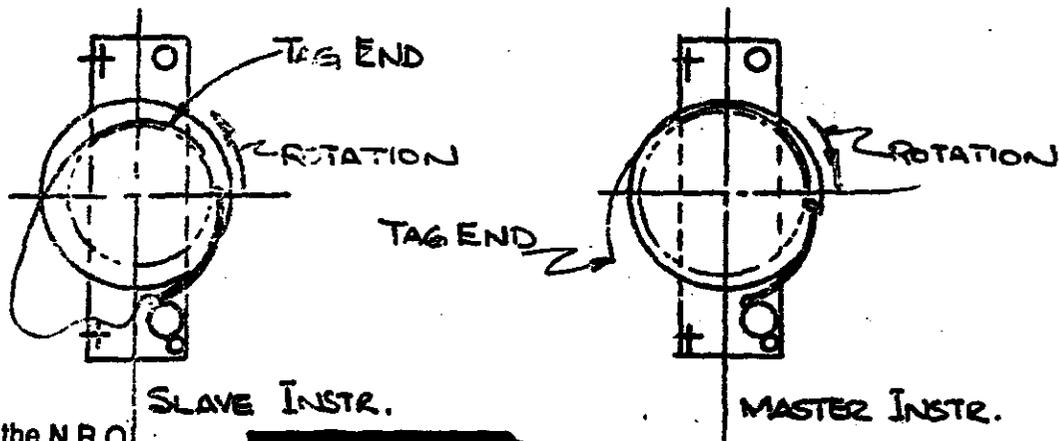
Initial cassette examination following aft cover removal established a piece of film, approximately 8 inches long, was jammed into the pot operating gear segment of the puck-arm assembly. This piece had to be removed to relieve the hung open puck-arm. This piece had one clean cut end, either from water seal or end of supply, and one badly frayed wrinkled end. The damaged end, by feel in the dark, matches the end of the piece on hand, which was discovered under the T/M tray during SRV handling in room lite.

Normal spool removal was denied as a direct result of loc-tite or glytol on bearing lock rings in the cassette hubs. The complete cassette was removed and lock rings chiseled out. The main slave and S/I film were installed in the suitcase for transit and the 8 inch piece, described above, was placed in this container for shipment.

The tag end of film on the master spool felt clean and square cut. The tag end of the slave spool was very tattered and damaged for an estimated 10 inches.

It is felt the tattering is caused by the following:

1. Extended operation of the cassette after cutter operation or supply run-out.
2. The mechanical configuration of the puck-arm to cassette rotation.



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3. The noted deterioration of tag end is not new. This condition has been noted often.

Summary and Recommendations:

The indicated tag end length, due to mirror image puck-arm design, is not desirable. The offset position of the roller on the puck-arm is not desirable.

The S/I cassette-puck-arm assembly design must be reviewed. The unit should be redesigned to provide center of film roller contact to aid tracking, and provide identical puck-arm to direction of rotation configuration.

[REDACTED]

12-30-63

Approved:

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PROGRAM II

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