

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20330

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

5 MAY 1967

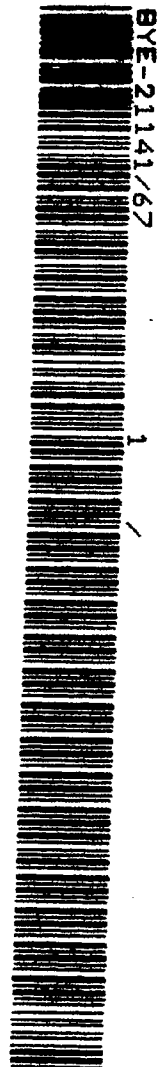
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory Monthly Status
Report

The attached Status Report on the Manned Orbiting
Laboratory (MOL) Program covers activities through
April 30, 1967 and is submitted in accordance with
the April 13, 1967 memorandum from the Office of the
Secretary.

for Stewart
JAMES FERGUSON
General, USAF
Director, MOL Program

1 Atch
a/s



DORIAN

Page 1 of 1 page
Copy 1 of 10 copies
SAFSL BYE 21141-67

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

I. PROBLEM

MOL Schedule Adjustment

Since January 1967, the MOL Program has been engaged in an extensive effort to achieve a realistic balance between schedules and funds for the engineering development of the MOL System. During this exercise, which has involved the participation of all associate contractors, it has become apparent that a schedule adjustment of approximately 9 months is desirable to accommodate technical factors, principally involving engineering, integration and test of exchange hardware. When available and projected fiscal year funding ceilings are considered in addition to these technical requirements, it appears that an extension of approximately one year to the present baseline schedule will best balance the date of the first manned flight with an orderly progression of the development program. A concerted effort will be made to adhere to a schedule which will achieve the first manned flight in December 1970.

This revised program can be achieved within the FY 1967 budget level of \$228.4 million. A request has been forwarded to DDR&E for the release of the remaining \$58.4 million of deferred FY 1967 funds.

At this time, the FY 1968 funds requirement, based on the revised program schedule, is approximately \$510.0 million. While this figure exceeds the planning guideline of \$480.0 million jointly recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, the apparent discrepancy is considered to be manageable. However, the funding situation may be aggravated by the recent failure of either House of Congress to raise the MOL FY 1968 budget above the \$430.0 million level in the respective Authorization Bills. If the disparity of \$80.0 million stands, then further program adjustments will be necessary.

II. CHANGE PAST MONTH

A. Congressional

Updated MOL information was provided to support the Congressional testimony of Dr. Foster, Dr. Brown/

DORIAN

Page / of 4 pages
Copy / of 10 copies
SAFSL BYE 21142-67

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

General McConnell, and Dr. Flax/General Holzapple. Included in these inputs was information on the Apollo and Brooks AFB accidents, and the MOL funding and schedule situation. Answers to questions related to MOL were prepared for Mr. Mahon, Mr. Symington and Mr. Karth. On April 11, Dr. Brown gave a special MOL briefing to Chairman Rivers and selected members of his committee, stressing the need for \$50 million additional FY 1968 funds. Inserts for the record were prepared, principally on funding, as part of Dr. Flax' testimony to both the House Appropriations (Mahon) Committee and the Price Subcommittee of the House Armed Services (Rivers) Committee. It is understood that the reports of neither House Committee included the MOL \$50 million requirement. On April 24, General Stewart briefed Chairman Teague and members of his Committee on MOL and NASA relationships.

B. Titan IIIM Funding

At the MOL Management Meeting on April 14, 1967, the T-III SPO identified additional T-IIIM commitment funding requirements beyond the cumulative total of \$80.0 million provided through mid-April. These additional requirements were described in three options in which different fund levels had differing effects on the T-IIIB, C and D programs.

The option selected requires an additional \$10.2 million through June 30. It preserves the T-IIIB, C and D schedules, and minimizes the overhead cost impact of the MOL schedule slip.

C. Readout/Data Return Vehicle (DRV)

Readout and the Data Return Vehicle have been deleted from the baseline MOL development program. However, the option to include these capabilities in follow-on vehicles will be protected; i.e., the baseline MOL configuration will reserve weight, space and power allocations for Readout and the DRV.

D. Selection of MOL Astronauts

A Board of officers will meet during May to select the third increment of astronauts to join the program. The eight candidates to be screened are all that remain

DORIAN

Page 2 of 4 pages
Copy 1 of 10 copies
SAFSL BYE 21142-67

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

from the group of 25 nominated to the Director, MOL by the Chief of Staff early in 1966. Five of the 25 were selected to join the program in the second increment in October 1966. The selection process will be completed by the end of May, with public announcement of the results tentatively scheduled for June. Those selected will join the total of 12 astronauts presently assigned.

E. DDR&E/BOB Visit to EK/GE

Mr. Kirk, Mr. Barfield, Mr. McGough, all of DDR&E and Mr. Linder of BOB visited the Eastman Kodak Company on April 10, 1967. Mr. Kirk and Mr. McGough also visited General Electric on the same date.

Of prime concern to Mr. Kirk and party were configuration management, contractor interface management and particularly difficult technological areas. Mr. Kirk expressed a desire for more technical detail in these specific areas, and indicated that he would request briefings on these items in the future.

F. State Department Briefing

On April 7, a one-hour briefing was presented to Mr. Foy Kohler, Mr. Jeffrey Kitchen and Mr. Scott George of the State Department. The briefing was given by representatives of AFRDS, SAFSS and SAFSL, and covered status of current space programs, special space projects, policy considerations regarding overhead reconnaissance, and the MOL Program.

III. CURRENT STATUS

A. Funds

Funds in the amount of \$31.05 million were released to MOL operating activities during April, leaving a balance of \$7.0 million retained by the Director, MOL Program. A memorandum to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, dated April 26, requested release of the remaining \$58.4 million (FY 1967) retained by DOD. These funds will meet program requirements through June 30, 1967.

DORIAN

Page 3 of 4 pages
Copy 1 of 10 copies
SAFSL BYE 21142-67

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

B. MOL Target Model

The processing of the target model sample (585 items) has been completed. Based on agreements reached in a meeting at Hq SAC on April 13, 1967, the sample is now to be expanded into the full model (4,265 items). SAC will perform this task; estimated completion date is July 1, 1967.

C. GE Plant Cognizance

A meeting was convened on April 19 by the Directorate for Contract Administration Services, ASD(I&L), to discuss the MOL Program Office request for the transfer of plant cognizance at GE, Philadelphia, from DCAS to the Air Force. Final action by ASD(I&L) is expected during May.

IV. FORECAST FOR FUTURE

A. MOL Management Meeting

The next MOL Management Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 1967. The meeting will convene at 1:00 P. M. in Room 5D-227, Pentagon, MOL costs, schedules, and contracts will be covered.

B. Executive Council Meeting

The initial meeting of the MOL Executive Council, an executive-level advisory body made up of senior Air Force and Industry MOL managers, is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 1967. The meeting will convene at 9 A. M. at Hq Air Force Systems Command, Andrews, AFB.

V. DUE DATE FOR NEXT PROGRESS REPORT

The next Monthly MOL Progress Report will be submitted June 7, 1967.

DORIAN

Page 4 of 4 pages
Copy 1 of 10 copies
SAFSL BYE 21142-67

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System

~~SECRET~~