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MINUTES OF MEETING 67-1

AIR FORCE MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 1, 1967

Room 4E871, Pentagon

Attendance:

Committee:

Honorable Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force,
Chairman
General John P. McConnell, Chief of Staff, USAF
General Bruce K. Holloway, Vice Chief of Staff, USAF
Honorable Norman S. Paul, Under Secretary of the Air
Force
Honorable Alexander H. Flax, Assistant Secretary of
the Air Force (R&D)
Honorable Leonard Marks, Jr., Assistant Secretary of
the Air Force (FM)
Honorable Robert H. Charles, Assistant Secretary of
the Air Force (I&L)
General James Ferguson, Commander, Air Force Systems
Command
Lieutenant General Joseph R. Holzapple, Deputy Chief
of Staff/Research and Development

Secretariat:

Major General James T. Stewart, Executive Secretary (SAFSL)

Proceedings:

The meeting began at 1455 hours.

Before General Stewart's briefing, Secretary Brown expressed concern about the possibility of an across-the-board cut in Air Force RDT&E funds. General Stewart stated that he had recently briefed Chairman Mahon, Mr. Lipscomb and two staff members of the House Appropriations Committee, and had subsequently provided a paper

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to the Committee on certain manned/unmanned comparisons. General Stewart reported his understanding that the Committee staff did not believe that MOL would be subject to such a cut.

General Stewart's briefing covered two areas:

- a. MOL Program Status and Plans.
- b. MOL Management Responsibilities.

The program status was displayed in terms of contract items completed and with photographs of mockups, test structures and hardware in fabrication. The FY 68 milestones were identified for each contractor to give the Committee a feel for expected program progress.

In discussing Eastman Kodak, General Stewart noted that some of the critical optics problems are still in the future. He responded to a question by Dr. Brown on the basis for confidence in EK progress by citing EK's record of conservative estimates, and the great amount of experience gained by EK over the past year -- in such areas as mirror polishing techniques. General Martin stated that EK schedules for MOL are based on the assumption of learning from GAMBIT-3. CERVIT mirrors are being cast and tested at about one per week. Secretary Flax agreed that this will be the decision year for CERVIT, and that if CERVIT is successful, the fused-silica mirrors with their attendant temperature problems will be dropped in favor of CERVIT.

General Stewart listed, as critical areas for General Electric, fabrication of the mirror gimbal bearings and the beryllium gimbal structure.

As part of the MOL Program status, General Stewart reported on (1) contractor manpower figures (almost 9000 by end of FY 67), (2) configuration changes (prompted by deferring the Re-entry Vehicle and Readout capabilities, (3) change in baseline orbit inclination (from 80° to 90°), (4) impact of the Apollo fire (assignment of an Assistant Deputy Director for Safety Assurance; changes in test techniques and materials, etc.), (5) orbiting vehicle weight (now a plus 950 lb. margin), and (6) new flight schedule (first manned all-up systems launch in December 1970). He stated that the program has been scaled to FY 68/69 funds of \$480/681 million, and that the total program is now costed at \$2,349 million.

With regard to the elimination of MOL Readout hardware, Dr. Brown expressed the view that he felt Readout would have to go back into MOL at some later date.

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In the event that funds in excess of the \$431 million presently budgeted in FY 68 are not forthcoming, the Air Force still has the option of levelling off or reducing contractor manpower buildup during FY 1968.

Primary among early actions that must be taken are (1) exhausting all possibilities to obtain a NOA of \$480 million in FY 68, (2) obtaining this summer a commitment to support MOL from all key agencies, such as Air Force, DoD, BoB and PSAC, and (3) MOL management alignment. Another action is a plan to handle a possible early visit to EK by Secretary McNamara.

General Stewart addressed, in the second portion of his briefing, the proposal for realignment of MOL management responsibilities. The need for a better definition of program responsibilities between SAFSP and the MOL Systems Office was pointed up as an urgent matter as the Program progresses into Phase II. Of the options considered, General Stewart recommended as the most appropriate the reassignment of the MOL Sensor Payload Office and the DORIAN contracting functions from General Martin to General Bleymaier. With the assignment to General Keeling, AFSC DCS/Procurement and Production, of a second hat as Assistant Director, MOL (Procurement), all procurement authority for the MOL System will be in the MOL Office.

In discussing the effect of this realignment on EK, Secretary Flax suggested it should create no major problems at EK, since General Martin would still retain plant cognizance. The major overall effect would be a simplification and integration of program management.

This management proposal called for the immediate transfer of the EK and the black (covert) portion of the GE and Douglas contacts to the MOL Systems Office. SAFSP would still support MOL in areas of (1) CERVIT development and production, (2) image velocity sensor technology, (3) BYEMAN security and communications procedures, (4) optics industry surveillance for the DNRO, and (5) advanced camera concepts and technology. In this latter regard, Secretary Flax stated that current favorite concepts for a [REDACTED] camera capability involve a new optical system, and probably not any great use of current MOL hardware.

Other management aspects include a proposed MOL Program Review Council, not to supplant the Policy Committee, but to provide a direct-line management review at a level more immediate to the Systems Office. Additionally, it was noted that as Phase II progresses, the major effort will be in the Systems Office, and the activities of the Program Office in the Pentagon would diminish.

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Secretary Brown expressed concern that this proposed realignment of responsibilities into a more completely contained program could tend to make MOL more white than black. Since MOL was approved on the basis of a black reconnaissance mission, he was sensitive to any step toward making the program so open it would not be able to survive. He pointed out the danger in taking actions at this time that will negate future options for control of the MOL program. Secretary Flax and General Stewart emphasized that there would be no change in security procedures or control and that the program would not tend to "drift" away from the NRO.

On the related subject of splitting out black from white funds and better concealing the "black" funds, General McConnell advocated direct action with Secretary Vance and Chairman Mahon to gain support for a realistic identification of MOL funds. Secretary Flax pointed out the reluctance of Mr. Mahon to increase the amount of black funds. After some discussion, it was agreed this overall area needed to be analyzed in some depth prior to the FY 69 Budget Estimate.

The Committee generally concurred in the management realignment as outlined.

The meeting adjourned at 1605 hours.

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APPENDIX

MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 1967

Other Attendees:

[REDACTED]

Franklin J. Ross, SAFRD

Michael I. Yarymovych, SAFSL

Major General Joseph S. Bleymaier, SAFSL-1

Brigadier General Russell A. Berg, SAFSS

Brigadier General J. L. Martin, SAFSP

Colonel Paul J. Heran, SAFSL-1

Colonel Richard C. Randall, SAFSL

Colonel Fred W. Vetter, SAFOS

Colonel Richard L. Dennen, SAFSL



AGENDA

AIR FORCE MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING 67-1

Thursday, 1 June, 1967, 2:30 P.M.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. MOL Program Status	Gen Stewart	25 minutes
2. MOL Management Responsibilities	Gen Stewart	25 minutes

HB

AIR FORCE MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

Highlight Summary
of
Agenda Items for Meeting 67-1, June 1, 1967

1. Old Business: The previous meeting November 22, 1966 was devoted to the deadlocked status of MOL contract negotiations. Following the meeting, General Berg was directed to prepare a program plan for reopening competition for those segments that had not been negotiated. Subsequently, this course of action was not taken because of early downward revision of contractor cost estimates.

2. MOL Program Status and Plans: A revision to the MOL Master Program schedule has been dictated by the time requirements for payload development, system assembly and checkout, and FY 68 fund limitations. A new schedule has been established, and contracts signed, leading toward the first manned flight of an "all-up" system in December 1970. The briefing will describe the current Program status and plans.

3. Realignment of MOL Management Responsibilities: During the past nine months, it has become increasingly apparent that present assignments of program responsibilities to SAFSP and the MOL Systems Office are not conducive to the best possible Government management of this complex and costly system. Various alternatives have been considered, and it is now proposed to assign essentially all base-line program responsibility to the MOL Systems office. The briefing will cover the background, present arrangements, options considered, and proposed management arrangements and related interfaces.

4. Committee Action Requested:

- a. Agenda Item 1 - Information only.
- b. Agenda Item 2 - General concurrence in the management realignment.