

31 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Headquarters
SUBJECT : Launch Pads, Change of

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the change in procedures incident to the change of launch sites from Vandenberg launch pads to Point Arguello launch pads termed PALCs. This information has been obtained from [redacted], AP Engineer who drew up the graphic flow diagram; [redacted], VAFB L Building haunch of the changed launch operation; [redacted], IMSC VAFB Security Officer; and [redacted] VAFB Launch Control Officer.

2. Colonel Murphy has advised that the change in launch sites is tied to vehicle 1172. At the moment this is tentatively scheduled for 20 November 1963.

3. The procedure of bringing the vehicle from the L Building from the pad will be the same as heretofore up until the point of arriving at U. S. Navy controlled Point Arguello. That is, USAF Air Police will escort the vehicle laden closed truck from the L Building to the Point Arguello gate. At this point U. S. Marine guards will assume the escort duties and the APs will be released. From this point the caravan will proceed to the gantry for loading. [redacted] will continue in his position as he had previously performed as launch control officer. He will maintain control over the physical assets of the pad and maintain control over which personnel are admissible to the pad.

4. After arrival at the pad the vehicle, covered with the security shroud, will be removed from the truck (see figures 1-12 on the attached Graphic Analysis Flow Diagram). The shrouded payload will then be hoisted to the 70 foot level and drawn into the gantry after which the curtains will be drawn shut excluding visual access (see figures 13-15 on GAFFD). The hoist will carry the payload to hover 1 foot over the waiting vehicle (see figure 16 on GAFFD). At this point all [redacted] personnel (who run the hoist and control the gantry) will be excluded from the gantry. At this point the PRIME Contractor personnel will lower the payload the remaining 1 foot and mate it to the vehicle (see figure 17 on GAFFD). After the mating the hoist couplings will be removed (see figure 18-19 on GAFFD). The 103 foot level platform will then be positioned for the removal of the security shroud and the substitution of the thermal cover (see figures 20-21 on GAFFD).

Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958
on NOV 26 1997

5. For the entire operation from figures 16-21 the entire area will be under strict physical and visual control. No security problems are seen. After the foregoing operation is completed a baby sitter will remain on the gantry level of payload until such time the gantry is removed prior to launching at which time the baby sitting chores will be taken over from the blockhouse by television.

6. The emergency plan is substantially the same as heretofore with the exception that U. S. Navy crews will man the circling helicopters. In the event of a mishap they have instructions to pick up the launch control officer from the blockhouse. The helicopters will then pick up the PRIME emergency crew from the fall back area and proceed to the debris area to perform their safety/security functions. Should the area be inaccessible by ground transport the helicopters will return to the fall back to pick up the PRIME and Headquarters security officers and transport them to the debris area. The security handling of the changed launch site appears thoroughly thought out and in hand.

7. A proposed dry run of the above described activities is tentatively scheduled for the 3, 4, or 5th of November. If I am available I plan to be present to observe this dry run.

8. The first vehicle to be launch from Point Arguello is vehicle number 1172, now scheduled for launch on 20 November.

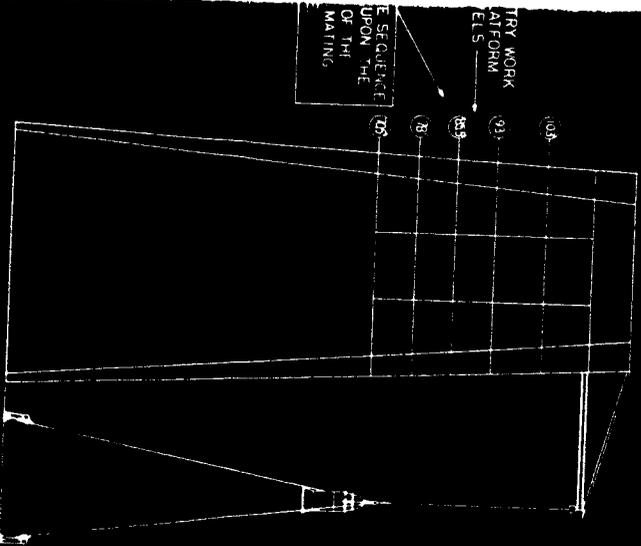




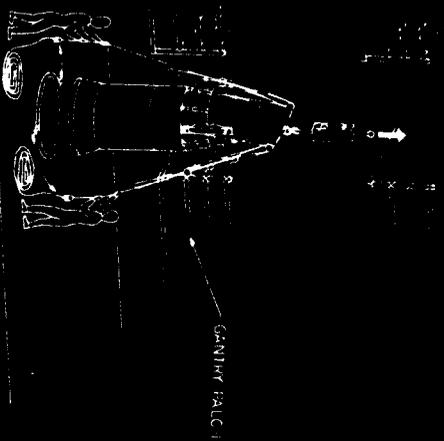
- 9 HOIST VEHICLE GET DOLLY ASSY WITH GANTRY CRANE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR OF DOLLY STRUCTURE
- 10 REMOVE DOLLY ASSY
- 11 BY PULLING ON HOIST CHAIN, CAREFULLY LOWER AFTER END OF VEHICLE
- 12 WHEN VEHICLE IS IN VERTICAL POSITION & ABOUT 2 FEET OFF THE GROUND UNBOLT THE BASE RING OPERATE HOIST CHAIN AND BASE RING WILL BE LOWERED TO THE GROUND

CAUTION AS BASE RING IS REMOVED IT WILL ROTATE ABOUT THE VERTICAL PLANE THROUGH THE POSTS (TRUNNIONS ARE OFFSET FROM RING 5 INCH)

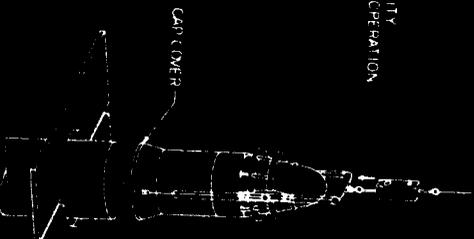
HOIST RATE & CAPACITY ADEQUATE FOR OUR OPERATION



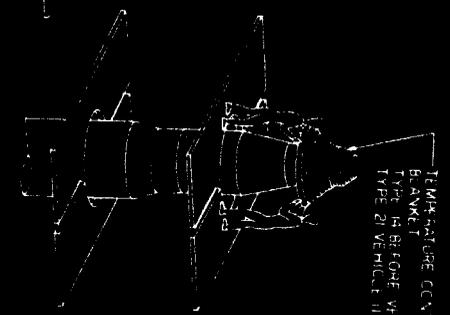
- 14 HOIST VEHICLE TO WORKING LEVEL & MOVE INTO POSITION IN GANTRY
- 15 CLOSE CANVAS CURTAINS AROUND WORKING LEVELS



- 13 REMOVE CABLES FROM BASE RING - TIE LOCKS (MAIN TO REAR CABLES) ATTACH TIE LINKS TO CABLE LINKS AND THE CONNECTION IS READY TO HOIST UP THE GANTRY INTO ASSY POSITION. USE OF GUY LINES AND ATTACH POINTS PER VAFB PRACTICE



- 16 USING GANTRY CRANE LOWER VEHICLE TO WITHIN ONE FOOT OF ADE NARROW GATE
- 17 USING HYDROSET LOWER VEHICLE & PERFORM MATING OPERATIONS



TEMPERATURE CONTROL BLANKET TYPE 14 BEFORE VEHICLE 1172 TYPE 21 VEHICLE 1172 & UP

- 18 REMOVE GUY CABLES TO FORWARD TRUNNIONS ON UNIVERSAL HANDLING FIXTURE
- 19 REMOVE UNIVERSAL HANDLING FIXTURE
- 20 REMOVE PROTECTIVE COVER
- 21 INSTALL TEMPERATURE CONTROL BLANKET & SECURE FOR LAUNCH