

**SECRET**

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FILE INFO

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

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~~SECRET~~ 080011Z SEP 71 CITE

PRIORITY

CORONA

ATTN EYES ONLY

FROM PRS/WCPO

SUBJ CR-15 FLIGHT TEST PROBLEMS

FOLLOWING IS THE ANOMALY CHRONOLOGY AND CORRECTIVE ACTION OF CR-15 (MISSION 1115).

1. 9-2-71: DURING THE PAYLOAD RECEIVING INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE TEST AT VAFB A PROBLEM WAS FOUND IN THE AFT IM BOX. THE VADE CHECKOUT SYSTEM AND THE AUGIE READOUT SYSTEM COULD NOT SYNC ON THE COMMUTATOR WAVE TRAIN 100 PERCENT OF THE TIME DUE TO A DROP (MOMENTARY GROUND) IN ONE OF THE SYNC PULSES.

THE PROBLEM WAS ANALYZED AS A GROUND IN THE AFT IM BOX

Declassified and Released by the NRO  
 In Accordance with E. O. 12958  
 on NOV 26 1997

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MOST LIKELY IN THE COMMUTATOR. SINCE THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE BARREL AND THE CONIC ADAPTER HAD TO BE OPENED (ELECTRICALLY AND MECHANICALLY) TO FIX THE PROBLE, THE PAYLOAD WAS RETURNED TO SUNNYVALE WHERE SEMI-AUTOMATIC TEST EQUIPMENT WAS AVAILABLE TO RETEST THE SYSTEM AFTER CORRECTIVE ACTION.

2. 9-3-71: THE PAYLOAD WAS RETURNED TO SUNNYVALE AND DEMATED. A GROUND WAS FOUND TO EXIST IN THE COMMUTATOR. THE COMMUTATOR WAS REPLACED, TESTED AND THE PAYLOAD REMATED. (INCIDENTALLY [REDACTED] IN LOCAL AREA FOR [REDACTED] 2ND BUCKET RECOVERY, VISITED [REDACTED] AT TIME WHEN PROBLEM WAS DEFINITELY ASCERTAINED. HE COMMENDED LMSC PERSONNEL FOR WORKING DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.)

3. 9-4-71: A SYSTEM TEST WAS CONDUCTED VERIFYING THE REMATED INTERFACE BY SEMI-AUTOMATIC CONTINUITY TESTS, PYRO LINE TESTS, COMMAND TESTS AND LIGHT LEAK. THE SYSTEM CHECKED OUT WITH NO FURTHER PROBLEMS AND WAS READIED FOR RETURN TO VAFB.

4. 9-5-71: PAYLOAD RESHIPED TO VAFB.

5. 9-6-71: DURING ACCEPTANCE AT VAFB ANOTHER TM ANOMALY OCCURRED WHEN THE TM READOUT INDICATED THAT AN OPERATION DID NOT EXECUTE AS COMMANDED.

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VERIFICATION WAS MADE THAT THE HARDWARE OPERATED AS COMMANDED AND THAT THE TELEMETRY READOUT WAS INCORRECT. (THE PAYLOAD COULD HAVE BEEN FLOWN WITH THIS ANOMALY IF URGENCY DICTATED SINCE THERE ARE SECONDARY READOUT POINTS THAT COULD BE USED.) THE MALFUNCTION WAS DUPLICATED IN [REDACTED] -- ITS CAUSE WAS A DEFECTIVE CIRCUIT BOARD IN THE COMMAND BOX.

SINCE THERE WAS NO APPARENT COMMUNITY PRESSURE TO LAUNCH AT A SPECIFIC TIME, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO REPLACE THE COMMAND BOX SO THAT ALL PRIMARY TELEMETRY WOULD BE AVAILABLE. AS NO ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL INTERFACES NEEDED TO BE DISTURBED IN REPLACING THE COMMAND BOX, A QUALIFIED AND TESTED REPLACEMENT BOX WAS CHECKED OUT IN [REDACTED] AND SHIPPED TO VAFB.

6. 9-7-71: A SPECIAL TEST FOR COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE BOX AND SYSTEM WAS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED AT VAFB. THE REPEAT ACCEPTANCE TEST FOR THE PAYLOAD WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL.

7. THE COMMUTATOR IS IN THE SUNNYVALE FAILURE ANALYSIS LABORATORY AT PRESENT UNDERGOING ANALYSIS. THE FAILED COMMAND BOX WILL HAVE A FAILURE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED UPON ITS RETURN FROM VAFB.

8. CURRENT 8-DAY SCHEDULE AS COORDINATED WITH [REDACTED] IS:

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A. WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPT - MATE THE PAYLOAD TO AGENA

B. 9 SEPT - CONDUCT FINAL SYSTEM CHECKOUT AND START

COUNTDOWN

C. 10 SEPT - LAUNCH.

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II