

Draft 11/16/65

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Policy: MOL
STIC: MOL ✓
Security: Publ Info

Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C.

*Col. Worthman -
Mr. Sylvester has
approved the attached and
desires an SAFSS concurrence
of comment prior to approving
the plan formally. After receiving
your comment and hearing from
DDRE, ISA and B/General Evans
we propose to send this to State, DASA
and USIA for their coordination.*

INFORMATION PLAN

*The plan has their unofficial blessing
and includes changes State
recommended to TABE; they
have not yet seen this draft.
D. C. Mahoney
ell USAF*

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TITLE: Information Responsibilities for Manned Orbiting
Laboratory Program (MOL)

REFERENCES: 1. Air Force Information Plan 63-6, TITAN III,
6 June 1963

2. Department of the Air Force Letter:

"Security Policy and Procedures, MOL Program,"
(Confidential), 25 February 1965, to Hq AFSC
(MSF)

3. AFSDC-S message #89459 (Confidential),
26 February 1965

1. TASK ORGANIZATIONS:

U. S. Air Force (SAF-OI)

Air Force Systems Command

U. S. Navy (CHINFO)

Participating Contractors

2. PURPOSE:

To establish general Information policies and responsibilities
relative to the Manned Orbital Laboratory Program (MOL).

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3. OBJECTIVE:

To provide for a carefully planned program of public information on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program which can be released as required.

4. SITUATION:

a. Background

(1) Study of space station concepts by the Air Force goes back to about 1958. Since then, various concepts and design proposals were studied. These included the Military Test Space Station (MTSS); NASA's Manned Orbital Space Station (MOSS); the Military Orbital Development Systems (MODS) --- which provided specific hardware proposals and clearer concepts --- and, a National Orbital Space Station (NOSS).

(2) On 10 December 1963, the Secretary of Defense announced the assignment of a space station development program to the Air Force and identified it as a "near-earth Manned Orbiting Laboratory."

(3) On 23 January 1965, the Secretary of Defense announced the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFP's) from industry for design studies to assist in developing cost and technical information required to proceed with full-scale development of the MOL. At that time, DOD outlined broadened guidance concerning the program.

(4) On 1 March 1965, the Department of Defense announced

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that the Air Force had selected four contractors to perform preliminary design studies for the MOL. The four were selected from seven contractors which responded to the RFP's. The four announced were: Boeing Company, General Electric Corporation, Douglas Aircraft Company, and Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. Each contractor was to perform 60-day design studies at a cost of about \$400,000 each.

(5) On 25 August, 1965, President Johnson announced that he was instructing the Department of Defense to proceed with MOL, and that Douglas and General Electric had been selected to carry out the developmental work required. The President indicated that initial unmanned and manned launches of a fully-equipped laboratory were expected to take place in 1968.

b. Policy

(1) The mission of MOL will be described solely as that of learning more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability can be used for defense purposes. The research and experimental nature of MOL will be emphasized. Statements or connotations that MOL is to be an operational system or an intermediate step toward an operational system will be avoided.

(2) No special effort will be made to justify the MOL program publicly. The objective is not to generate publicity, but

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rather to provide enough material to respond to legitimate public interest in the program and to cope with its international repercussions.

(3) Because of international sensitivities public information on MOL will be carefully planned to avoid or minimize international controversy or apprehension. This will be especially important at the time permissible information on the operational phase will be released at or near launching times. All public information releases or statements on MOL made by representatives of any Executive Department or Agency will process for approval through a single DOD point of review --- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Directorate for Plans and Programs, which will be responsible for clearing, before release, with the Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State. ~~Such news stories will be designed to keep press attention and public visibility at a minimum.~~ Public releases will deal exclusively with non-sensitive technological or other aspects of the MOL program, such as the booster system, the life support system, engineering for long life in orbit, launching technology, communications plans, biomedical experiments, and the like. Military objectives, operational goals and capabilities will not be discussed in public information releases.

(4) All MOL launchings will be included on the U.S. portion of the United Nations' registry of satellite launchings.

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(5) Public Affairs policy and guidance not otherwise included in this Plan (or referenced) will emanate from OASD(PA) (or SAF-OI subject to the approval of OASD/PA). Such guidance will be coordinated in advance with State by OASD(PA).

(6) Proposed public participation or appearance of designated MOL astronauts will be forwarded to SAF-OI for action. Participation of Navy astronauts will be coordinated with Navy Office of Information (CHINFO) by SAF-OI. SAF-OI will process these proposed appearances through OASD(PA), which will clear with State.

5. ASSUMPTION:

There may be occasions when it will be advantageous to generate public information materials in support of program goals or for other special requirements.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. Within the policies approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), the Director of Information, Office Secretary of the Air Force (SAF-OI), is responsible for the implementation of this plan and overall monitorship.

b. Air Force Systems Command will carry out Information actions for SAF-OI as outlined in this plan and future annexes and/or specific procedural plans to be developed.

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c. Agencies of the U. S. Navy, as well as the Air Force, participating in the MOL program will follow the policy and procedures in this plan.

d. All Major Commands will follow closely the policies and procedures of the MOL Information Plan.

7. INFORMATION ACTIONS:

a. Tasks

(1) SAF-OI will:

(a) Assign a qualified Information Officer as a single point of contact to work with the Office of the Director, MOL. All SAF-OI Divisions will assist this officer as required.

(b) Prepare answers-to-queries to be used as required in the accomplishment of this very limited information program.

(c) Monitor implementation of this Plan.

(d) Prepare and/or recommend specific items of public interest pertaining to U. S. Navy MOL activities for submittal to CHINFO for release through Navy information channels, and/or OASD(PA).

(2) AFSC will:

Coordinate the Information activities of all participating AFSC divisions and centers along with those of the contractors and

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insure their compliance with this plan.

(3) Major Air Commands will:

Provide support to SAF-OI and AFSC as may be directed.

(4) U.S. Navy will coordinate any proposed information activity relating to MOL with OASD(PA) and SAF-OI prior to execution.

b. Procedures

(1) News Releases:

Proposed releases concerning the MOL program will be submitted through channels to the OASD(PA) for approval. Information will be submitted for clearance as early as practicable in order that sufficient time can be allotted to the extensive inter-agency coordination required prior to approval.

(2) Speeches:

Speeches concerning the MOL program will be discouraged, and must not be made without specific authorization by the OASD(PA). References to the MOL program in public addresses on related or other topics will be held to an absolute minimum and will also be subject to review and approval by the OASD(PA).

(3) Answers to Queries:

Answers to queries may be provided only within the

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context of the aggregate of material that has been released officially since the Presidential announcement of August 25, 1965. A resume of this material is attached. Queries which do not fall within the aggregate will be submitted through channels to OASD(PA) for review and guidance, as appropriate.

(4) Proposed changes to this plan:

Proposed changes to this plan will be submitted to SAF-OI for approval subject to policy decisions of OASD(PA).

(5) Information annexes:

The Director of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF-OI), is assigned the responsibility for the preparation of an annex to this plan which treats in detail the planned actions for each significant scheduled event in the MOL program including the following:

Selection of astronauts

Contract awards

Establishment of MOL Experiment Advisory Committee

Signing of the AF-NASA agreement

TITAN III TITAN IIC test launchings

Completion of the contract definition phase and beginning of development phase

Delivery of modified GEMINI II spacecraft

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Delivery of first laboratory

First "all up" launching

First unmanned launch

Selection of crew and backup crew for first manned
launching

q First manned launch

Selection of crews for subsequent launchings

Selection of experiments to be performed,

(6) Coordination

The Directorate of Plans and Programs will be the focal point within OASD(PA) to ~~assure~~^{assure} necessary coordination is accomplished; within DOD coordination will include as a minimum OASD(ISA), ODDR&E, SAF-SS, and SAF-OI. In addition, coordination will be accomplished with State, USIA, and NASA.

Attachments

1. Presidential statement, 25 August 1965
2. Department of Defense release, 25 August 1965
3. OASD(PA) message DEF 9152, 25 August 1965
4. Fact Sheet
5. Approved Questions and Answers

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