

NASA News

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899
321 867-2468



June 20, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
Tel. UL 3-4526

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. - Dr. Nicolas E. Golovin, left, Deputy Associate Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as he delivered a talk recently to the Atlantic Missile Range Reliability Club. He outlined the N.A.S.A. Reliability Organization's role in the national space exploration program. Seated, right, is E. C. Whitney, the N.A.S.A. Atlantic Missile Range representative. The meeting was held at Ramon's restaurant, Cocoa Beach. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOGRAPH)

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NASA News

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July 10, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLA. - The ABMA Wives Club, a tradition at the Air Force Missile Test Center for the past 18 months, formally assumed the new title of the NASA WIVES CLUB at their recent monthly meeting at the PAFB Officers Club. The ladies followed the lead of their husbands who were involved in the recent transfer of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. As part of the move locally, the Launch Operations Directorate of NASA was established at Cape Canaveral, under the direction of Dr. Kurt Debus.

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NASA News

National Aeronautics and
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John F. Kennedy Space Center
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July 14, 1960

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Launch Operations Directorate

Public Information Office

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

UL 7-6244

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.-- The Marshall Space Flight Center has awarded a \$942,140 contract to Management Services Inc. of Oak Ridge, Tenn., to provide certain vehicular transportation services for the center both at Huntsville and Cape Canaveral, Fla.

A second contract, for emergency air transportation service to supplement normal commercial air transport at Huntsville, was won by the Rocket City Air Activities of Huntsville.

Under terms of the motor vehicle contract, Management Services Inc. will furnish Huntsville with a total of 133 vehicles, ranging from motor scooters to five-ton trucks, while 56 vehicles, including sedans, pickup trucks and station wagons, will be supplied to the newly formed NASA Launch Operations Directorate at Cape Canaveral.

The Tennessee firm will provide complete maintenance for the vehicles at both sites, as well as 90 other road vehicles and 163 material-handling vehicles (forklifts, cranes, etc.) at Huntsville which have been transferred from the Army to the Marshall Space Flight Center.

It is planned that the contractor will erect a maintenance shop at the Marshall Center in the near future. At Cape Canaveral, the company will contract for maintenance services with a local firm off the base.

The new NASA vehicles will be painted white and will bear the distinctive red, white and blue emblem of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The contractor expects to employ about 61 persons at Huntsville and about 37 at the Launch Operations Directorate at Canaveral. This includes drivers, dispatchers and maintenance personnel.

Twenty-six drivers will be provided at Huntsville, 15 of whom will operate a fleet of radio equipped sedans as a taxi service for the Center. It is expected that the same number of drivers will be assigned at LOD. The remainder of the vehicles at both centers will be operated by NASA personnel.

The vehicles being transferred to NASA by the Army will continue to be maintained by the Army until 1 October when Management Services Inc. will assume the responsibility.

Under the second contract award, Rocket City Air Activities, located at Huntsville Municipal Airport, will provide special air transportation for priority trips to points not easily or readily accessible by means of commercial air carriers.

The firm will have two light aircraft (one Aero Commander and one Twin Beech Bonanza) available on a call basis. The company will furnish the aircraft pilot and maintenance for a

flight hourly fee. The duration of the contract is one year.

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July 19, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLA. -- Major Raymond L. Clark, U.S.A., (right) is awarded a certificate of achievement by the Department of the Army for his work in the field of missile intelligence while assigned in Washington, D.C. from October, 1959 to July, 1960. Making the presentation is Colonel James D. Sams, Chief of the Atlantic Missile Range Army Field Office. Major Clark currently is assigned as the program coordinator in the Test Support Office of the newly formed Launch Operations Directorate of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He was cited for meritorious achievement "in producing outstanding intelligence reports on the guided missile activity of the Soviet Union," while chief of the Surface-to-Surface Missile Unit in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army.

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NASA News

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October 10, 1960

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL7-4318, UL7-2861

John W. King
Public Information Officer

MEMO TO PRESS

The Public Information Office of the NASA Launch Operations Directorate has been moved from Room 246 to Room 347 in Building 425 (AFMTC Headquarters) at Patrick Air Force Base.

The telephone numbers are ULysses 7-4318 and 2861.

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October 17, 1960

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

MERCURY WEATHER NETWORK ESTABLISHED

The United States Weather Bureau has recently undertaken the meteorological support for this nation's initial Manned Space Flight Program -- Project Mercury.

At NASA's request, a Project Mercury Weather Support Group has been established in the Weather Bureau's Office of Meteorological Research to provide weather information for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Manned Orbital Flight Program.

The group headed by meteorologist Kenneth M. Nagler, will forecast the winds, state of the sea, cloudiness, and visibility for all areas beneath the proposed orbit, with particular emphasis on the central Atlantic Ocean. In addition the group will furnish climatological and meteorological guidance for the design of future rocket and spacecraft systems.

Headquarters will be in Suitland, Maryland, adjoining the W. B. S. National Meteorological Center. The group will also have a special unit at the Bureau's National Hurricane Center in Miami and a unit at Cape Canaveral. The latter unit is presently located at Patrick Air Force Base, but will eventually transfer to the Mercury Operations Building at Cape Canaveral. Special communications are being established between the Suitland, Miami, and Cape Canaveral units.

The Suitland staff of four will collect weather information from around the world between the 35th parallels on the orbital path of Project Mercury, except for the Atlantic Ocean area. It will develop procedures for the optimum forecasting and presentation of global weather information and for utilizing manned space flight as a scientific tool in meteorology and related fields.

Meteorological information for most of the northern hemisphere is already routinely available at the National Meteorological Center. But for some equatorial regions and the southern hemisphere, weather information is not routinely received. Arrangements will be made to have surface and upper air analysis transmitted from various meteorological in Africa, Australia, and the western Pacific to Suitland unit. If a weather satellite is in operation, the cloud photography will serve as a primary tool.

The seven-man Miami unit headed by Jesse R. Gulick, will provide forecasts for the Atlantic area, with particular emphasis on the various planned recovery areas. It will develop methods for preparing and transmitting composites of weather radar pictures in the Florida and Caribbean areas, for use in predicting weather in the launch and recovery zones.

During operational periods, the Miami Center will prepare weather outlooks and forecasts for the Atlantic and transmit them to the Cape Canaveral unit. It will prepare and transmit, via facsimile, composit radar pictures of the Florida area and adjoining part of the Atlantic.

The three-man Cape Canaveral unit is headed by Ernest Amman. Prior to each launching at the Cape, this unit will provide Project Mercury Operations Director Walter C. Williams with a complete weather picture, to include world-wide conditions, analysis and forecast. The Mercury Operations Director will consider this data before determining whether to launch.

Space Task Group, the management organization for Mercury, has appointed Don C. Cheatham to coordinate Weather Bureau support.

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NASA News

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October 24, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

ABMA CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.-- Mrs. Pauline B. Rudolph, passenger travel clerk for the NASA Launch Operations Directorate, is awarded an Army Ballistic Missile Agency certificate of appreciation for "active participation in the program leading to the successful space flight of monkeys Able and Baker" aboard a Jupiter missile in May, 1959. Making the presentation is Walter Barney, deputy director of LOD Operations. The Defense Operations Division of ABMA was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration last July.

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November 10, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

ECHO I COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has announced plans to issue a 4-cent stamp on December 15, 1960, at Washington, D. C., commemorating Echo I -- the world's first passive communications satellite -- placed in orbit around the earth by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on August 12, 1960.

"Echo I gives promise of the day when a system of such satellites, dedicated to peaceful purposes, would bring the peoples of the world closer through a wider exchange of information and viewpoints," said Mr. Summerfield. "Because this represents an initial and potentially a most significant and historic advancement in world communications for peace, the Post Office Department is commemorating the achievement with a commemorative stamp," Mr. Summerfield added. He said the Post Office Department's long-range interest in this and other improved means of communication is grounded in the belief that our postal system might ultimately employ this new technology to improve and extend our ability to communicate throughout the world.

T. Keith Glennan, NASA Administrator, said Echo I "is the first step in the use of satellites to provide the world with an economically feasible communications network of much greater capacity and versatility than anything we now have."

Collectors desiring first day cancellations of the 4-cent Echo I stamp may send addressed envelopes, together with remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed, to the Postmaster, Washington 13, D. C. Each envelope must be marked, in pencil, in the upper right corner, indicating the number of stamps to be affixed.

An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope and the flap either turned in or sealed. The outside envelope to the Postmaster should be clearly marked "First day covers 4-cent Echo I." Collectors are cautioned to send these covers separately. Any orders containing requests for other issues will be returned unserved by the Postmaster. Collectors are also cautioned that orders must not include requests for uncanceled stamps.

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November 15, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

THOMPSON NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Shelby Thompson has been named Acting Director of NASA's Office of Public Information. In announcing the appointment, Dr. T. Keith Glennan, Administrator of NASA, said Thompson will continue in his present capacity as Director, Office of Technical Information and Educational Programs. Dr. Glennan added that the two NASA information offices will be maintained as separate organizations without change in their personnel or functions.

Thompson succeeds, in an acting capacity, to the position formerly held by Walter T. Bonney, who resigned to become Director of Public Information, Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, California. Thompson came from the Atomic Energy Commission to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration last May 31 to become Director of the Office of Technical Information and Educational Programs when that office was created.

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November 22, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

HYATT NAMED DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Abraham Hyatt will become Director of NASA's Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, NASA Administrator T. Keith Glennan announced today. The appointment will be effective December 1, 1960, when Homer J. Stewart, whom he replaces, will return to his professorship at Cal Tech. Mr. Hyatt has been with NASA since its organization in October 1958, and is currently serving as Deputy Director of Launch Vehicle Programs. Before joining NASA, Hyatt was Chief Scientist and Research Analysis Officer of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. In this capacity, he was largely responsible for long-range planning of the Bureau of Aeronautics. Also while in the Navy, he played a part in preliminary design analysis which led to the Navy's Skystreak and Skyrocket Research Airplanes and the Lark and Polaris Missile.

Hyatt was born in Ukraine, Russia, came to the United States as a small boy and became a naturalized citizen in 1927. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and served in the Marine Corps during World War II.

He and Mrs. Hyatt, the former Grace Holladay, have two daughters and live with the youngest at 1716 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Milton Rosen, currently Assistant Director for Vehicles, will step into Mr. Hyatt's position as Deputy Director of Launch Vehicle Programs.

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December 9, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Launch Operations Directorate
Public Information Office
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

COLONEL ASA B. GIBBS

Colonel Asa B. Gibbs, a long-time veteran of missile research and development, is director of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Test Support at the Atlantic Missile Range.

In this capacity he is responsible to the director, NASA Launch Operations Directorate, for implementation of the many support functions required for satellite and space probe launchings at Cape Canaveral.

Colonel Gibbs' unique position also requires that he wear a second "cap" -- on the military side -- as the NASA Test Support representative on the staff of the Commander of the Air Force Missile Test Center, Major General Leighton I. Davis.

The NASA is conducting an ambitious space launching program at the Cape which includes the use of such rocket boosters as the Atlas, Thor-Delta, Juno II and Redstone. Within a year it is expected that more powerful space vehicles such as Atlas Agena-B, Centaur and the 1 1/2 million pound thrust Saturn will be launched on development tests.

Colonel Gibbs was commanding officer of Cape Canaveral from 1952-1954 when it was an Auxiliary Air Force Base. During his command the first United States ballistic missile, the Redstone, was launched successfully on August 20, 1953. Other "firsts" conducted during the period were firings of the Snark, Navaho and Bomarc guided missiles.

He also has the distinction of serving as the first Director of Tests for the Air Force Missile Test Center, from 1954-1955. At that time he initiated many of the procedures that are still used at the Cape today for missile test support.

Following this assignment at the Air Force Missile Test Center, he became the Air Force program officer on the Vanguard satellite project. At this time he played a role in formulating some early recommendations for a United States Space Program.

Prior to assuming his NASA assignment in July, 1960, the Colonel served as Deputy Director for the Atlas Missile Project, Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, Inglewood, California. He was project officer for Project Score, the 8,750 pound Atlas satellite that was fired into orbit in December, 1958, to broadcast President Eisenhower's "peace on earth" Christmas message to the world.

He also was project officer for the highly successful launching of an Atlas 9,000 miles to a target in the Indian ocean, the longest missile flight to date.

A native of Beaumont, Texas, Colonel Gibbs is an alumnus of Texas A&M and later did

graduate work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He entered the Air Force in 1941, and served in the Far East and on an assignment with the Atomic Energy Commission before stepping into the missile research and development business.

He is married to the former Johnnie Doris Smith of Clarksville, Texas. They have two children, Asa B., Jr., a student at Rollins College, and Joni Dee enrolled at Eau Gallie Junior High School.

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December 15, 1960
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Chairman Overton Brooks (D., La.) said today that an "Intensive Study" of the Project Mercury Program is now under way and hearings probably will be held early next year by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

The congressman said the hearings will take place after the first manned sub-orbital shot is made and the committee hopes to question the Astronaut upon his return from man's first flight into space.

Brooks stated "Our committee has had Project Mercury under study for some time. This is a tremendous program, having the highest national priority, with more than a third of a billion dollars being expended to finance it.

"Consequently, the committee has felt that a continuing study of the program is essential from the standpoint of Congress, which has the responsibility of authorizing the appropriation of funds for this project.

"The committee, however, has no desire to interfere in any way with the progress of the program. For this reason, we have decided to hold up our hearings until after the first manned sub-orbital shot. We have been advised that this shot will probably take place during the first quarter of 1961, if all goes well.

Brooks added "We plan to invite the first Astronaut to testify. The committee is anxious to obtain his views after he has made the trip. We would like to get his reaction both mental and physical. This will give the committee a better chance to evaluate the program and the progress that can be expected as the time approaches for the first manned orbital shot.

The Chairman said the committee would probably also call the Astronaut's Flight Surgeon for an evaluation of how well the Astronaut stood the flight.

The first suborbital shot will be preceded, early in the year, if the present schedule is followed, by a shot with a chimpanzee. In both instances, the space capsule will be launched with a Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral to a height of 125 miles. It will land about 200 miles downrange.

The Chairman said he understood all seven Astronauts will be shot into space, either in suborbital shots or in orbit around the earth. There had been indications before that not all would go up.

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December 6, 1960
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UL 7-4318, UL 7-2861

NASA Release No. 60-315

NASA SIGNS CONTRACT FOR LIQUID HYDROGEN

A contract has been awarded Linde Company, a division of Union Carbide Corporation of New York, to supply NASA's west coast requirements for liquid hydrogen.

The approximate \$31 million contract will cover NASA's needs through 1966 -- about 60 million pounds. This is in addition to some 3.3 million pounds a year supplied to NASA by Linde's Torrance, California, plant under a five-year contract signed in April, 1959.

Linde, among three companies which submitted bids on November 23, 1960, will manufacture the hydrogen at a new plant in Fortana, California. Until the plant begins production in mid-1962, the contract calls for Linde to deliver liquid hydrogen to the west coast for NASA from an Air Force plant at West Palm Beach, Florida.

NASA has under development at various west coast plants hydrogen-fueled upper stages for its Atlas, Centaur, and Saturn launch vehicles. Liquid hydrogen also is used in development of the Rover nuclear rocket and in other advanced propulsion research.

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NASA ESTABLISHES PMR TEST SUPPORT OFFICE

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA --The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is establishing a Test Support Office at the Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, California. The new office is a part of the Launch Operations Directorate (LOD), George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama. The office will be the central NASA activity at the Pacific Missile Range. Among space vehicles presently scheduled to be launched from PMR are the Scout and Thor Agena B.

Heading the NASA Test Support Office is Navy Commander Simon J. Burttschell, who has been assigned to the NASA by special arrangement with the Department of the Navy. He will report to Dr. Kurt Debus, Director of the Launch Operations Directorate. Burttschell, 37, is in the process of establishing his office in the PMR Headquarters Building at Point Mugu. The office is expected to be formally opened later this month. Initially, it will have a staff of six persons.

At the Atlantic Missile Range NASA space vehicles are launched either directly by the NASA Launch Operations Directorate, or by the various rocket system contractors who are working under NASA direction. At the Pacific Missile Range, however, the launchings will be accomplished altogether by the contractors concerned, under the supervision of the LOD. The Test Support Office at PMR will serve as the central point of contact between the PMR and NASA.

Commander Burttschell has had extensive experience in rocketry. From 1953 to 1956 he was assigned to the Pacific Missile Range as a missile test pilot, in which position he launched more than 100 air-to-air guided missiles. For a year and a half, beginning in February, 1956, he was stationed with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Huntsville, as a member of the Navy Project Office in the Jupiter IRBM Development Program. In the early phases of development, Jupiter was a joint Army-Navy Project. At Huntsville, Burttschell was in charge of the Navy's Nose Cone Recovery Project Office. Immediately before beginning his assignment with NASA, Burttschell was assigned to the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at the Atlantic Missile Range, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The son of Mrs. S. J. Burttschell, Sr., of Weimar, Texas, he has served in the Navy since 1942. He is married to the former Doris M. Walker of Pensacola, Florida. They have three sons: John, 8; Joe, 6; and Thomas, 2.

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