

# NASA News

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

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

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**March 27, 1961**

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

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

### **Note to Editors:**

March 27 - NASA is now making news coverage arrangements for the first manned sub-orbital Project Mercury flight from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The launch, tentatively scheduled for this Spring, will be open to coverage by accredited representatives of all bona-fide news media. Newsmen will be given a planning launch target date approximately a week to ten days prior to launch.

NASA urges that individual news organizations limit their representation to one person because of physical limitations at the Cape. A maximum of 350 persons can be accommodated at the Cape Press Site. Approximately 80 telephones will be available. A master coverage list will be compiled on a first come, first served basis.

To arrange for coverage, NASA requests that the executive in charge of day-to-day operations of a publication or radio-TV station (executive editor or station manager) write to Director of Public Information, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1520 H Street NW, Washington 25, D. C. The letter should specify by name the person proposed to cover the launch. NASA will reply by letter requesting that the specified reporter present the NASA letter of reply to Information Officers at Patrick AFB, Florida, along with suitable media identification when checking for the launch. Meanwhile, NASA will forward a carbon of its reply to Patrick where the master list will be compiled. The NASA letter of reply presented by reporters will be checked against that list.

In addition, at the request of various news media, NASA is working with groups representing all areas of news coverage in an effort to establish close-up pool coverage at several obvious points of news interest including several points on the Cape, prime recovery ships and follow-up operations.

The pool product, including television, radio, still pictures, newsreel, wire services, newspapers and periodicals will be made available as quickly as possible for common use at the Cape site. In addition, NASA press officers will be stationed at key points to feed information to the various pools as well as the Cape Press site.

Prime source of news during the launch will be the Cape. The NASA News Center in Washington will not attempt to provide coverage for this particular launching.

-- end --

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1961

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

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

### **NASA Release No. 3-61P**

The new NASA policy concerned with the release of information prior to a launching is outlined in the following letter from Administrator T. Keith Glennan to Earl Ubell, President of the National Association of Science Writers:

"Dear Earl:

"You have very kindly offered to transmit to the members of the National Association of Science Writers a brief message regarding my concern about public understanding of the research and development nature of NASA's space flight and launch vehicle experiments and an effort at better communications by NASA aimed at improving such understanding.

"I have been troubled for some time about the absence from many published news stories on our experimental launches of the fact that these truly were experiments and as such carries a substantial inherent probability of failing to accomplish the full measure of hoped for results. How to get this thought across to the public without appearing to excuse in advance a possible failure or partial failure has been a real problem, and I doubt that we have done very much in a positive sense to help the situation.

"Scientists and engineers have done so much and done most of this so well in recent years that the public generally has come to believe that they can bring into reality almost anything and also are capable of performing their miracles repeatedly with surety and ease.

"You know and I know that this just isn't the way things are done and that the typical road to achievement of a scientific or technological success is dotted with the records of many experiments that did not succeed or were only partial successes. I believe, however, that most of the general public are not as aware of this as we are and, therefore, are inclined to view with undue concern and alarm what we regard as normal experimental procedures and results. They do not stop to think, nor are they encouraged to understand, that only through the elimination of the causes of a trouble through experimentation, is it possible to achieve ultimate success.

"The nation's space research and exploration program under NASA is no exception to the rules of scientific progress. Furthermore, our agency conducts its experiments figuratively in a fish bowl, wide open to public scrutiny, with the results, good or bad, known at once, or almost at once, to practically everyone. NASA's research and development record, in my opinion, is a good one and will stand up well in comparison with many private research and development efforts that are not nearly so complicated nor so plagued with the effects of spectacular, or otherwise dramatic, short-falls that are highly visible.

"We in NASA do not want the public to know less about our experiments but rather more,

to understand the research and development -- trial and error -- nature of the experiments vitally necessary to ultimate progress in space exploration, including manned space flight.

"As you will understand, I believe nothing is gained at home or abroad by creating a circus-type atmosphere about particular shots by premature speculative stories that, in the words of some, 'simply build up suspense for what may be a letdown.' I recently asked some eminent, highly qualified journalist friends of mine what they thought I should do about my concern for public understanding of the truly experimental nature of our work, of its complexity and of the difficulties that persistently and unavoidably harass such work. The counsel of these men was thoughtful, sound and helpful.

"They recommended:

"A. That a clear, complete description of the experimental character of each NASA research and development launch and of its place in our progressive developmental program be prominently carried in the pre-launch information issued to newsmen by the agency.

"B. That such information be widely disseminated -- to reach many newsmen not now directly receiving the information contained in our handouts -- to help with understanding of our methods and problems as well as of our objectives and accomplishments, and

"C. That such information be released for pre-launch use so that the public can have been told a most complete story about the nature of the experiment by the time it is attempted.

"We are going to take this advice and are planning action accordingly. As has been our practice, pre-launch issuance of information on a NASA experiment, without pin-pointing the time of the launch, will be continued. The information, however, will not be embargoed for use after the launch. We plan henceforth -- starting with the advance material on our next launch -- to allow information on an upcoming launch to be used within a short time after it is issued and well ahead of launch time. We plan to get this information out sufficiently in advance of launch time to permit it to reach an enlarged number of potential users, and then will be for use at the option of the receiving newsmen. The information also will clearly and specifically point up the research and development nature of the experiment

"In this way we hope to accomplish desired improvement in communication with the public about the experimental nature of our undertakings. We earnestly hope that the expanded content and new rules on use of the information will enable responsible newsmen, including particularly the members of the National Association of Science Writers, to cooperate with us in telling the public not only what we are doing and why, but also to improve public understanding of how much of our work is necessarily experimental.

"My thanks again to you and the members of the association for making it possible for this message to be transmitted in this way."

"Sincerely yours,

T. KEITH GLENNAN  
Administrator

-- end --

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April 12, 1961

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

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

### Statement by Mr. Robert R. Gilruth, Director, NASA Space Task Group:

In response to news media queries in regard to the Soviet man-in-space flight, the statement reads:

"The Soviet man-in-space flight is a significant engineering achievement. Their engineers and scientists are to be congratulated on this accomplishment. I hope that the Soviets will make complete information about their flight available to all of the people of the world just as we have in the past and expect to continue to do in the future.

Manned exploration of space involves much more than a single flight. In the case of Project Mercury, we have planned a long-term step-by-step program of research and engineering effort leading to and beyond one man sub-orbital and orbital flights. To my mind the most important thing we need to do now is to continue to pursue our original goals on a solidly planned logical basis. We should neither stop what we are doing nor be panicked into premature actions.

I think I speak for everyone associated with our Project Mercury when I say that I would like to have been first, but I also know that we are all firmly committed to the pursuit of Project Mercury, a scientifically sound, balanced and aggressive progress of manned space flight research."

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### Comment by Mercury Astronaut Virgil I. Grissom at 10:30 a.m.:

In response to news media queries in regard to the Soviet man-in-space flight, the statement reads:

"Obviously I am disappointed that we weren't first. Now I intend to keep on doing just what I have been doing to get on with the job --- working just as hard as I can. I think the public has to make up its own mind about this Soviet achievement. I think I am doing all I can do to help."

-- end --

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### Comment by Mercury Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr.:

In response to news media queries in regard to the Soviet man-in-space flight, the statement reads:

"I am happy that the Soviet Cosmonaut has successfully completed his earth orbital journey. For two years we have been executing specific steps of Mercury at what we feel is an appropriate speed using plans for a similar flight. We shall continue to do so. I feel a deep sense of personal disappointment."

-- end --

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April 12, 1961

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UL7-4318, UL7-2861

### Comment by Mercury Astronaut John H. Glenn:

In response to news media queries in regard to the Soviet man-in-space flight, the statement reads:

"The Russian accomplishment is a great one. It was apparently very successful and I am looking forward to seeing more detailed information. I am naturally disappointed that we did not make the first flight to open this new era. The important goals of Project Mercury, however, remain the same. Ours is peaceful exploration of space.

"These first steps, whether Russian or American, will go a long way in determining the direction of our future endeavors. There is certainly work for all to solve the tremendous problems involved.

"I hope the Russians have the same objectives and that we proceed with mutual dissemination of information so that these goals that all mankind shares can be gained rapidly, safely and on a progressive, scientific basis."

-- end --

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**August 18, 1961**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

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

A unique agreement outlining Defense Department support of National Aeronautics and Space Administration launch operations has been established at the Air Force Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla., the NASA has announced.

The "tenancy" agreement, first of its kind between two government departments at the Cape, assures complete support by the Air Force Missile Test Center (AFMTC) for all NASA programs. This includes use of Defense Department furnished facilities at the Atlantic Missile Range needed to accomplish missions being conducted by the civilian space agency.

The agreement was signed by Maj. Gen. Leighton I. Davis, AFMTC Commander and Dr. Kurt H. Debus, head of the Launch Operations Directorate of NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.

"As the President has announced, we intend to accelerate our space programs rapidly and forcefully," Dr. Debus said. "This agreement is another example of the fine team effort between NASA and the Defense Department in fulfilling our mission."

Under terms of the agreement, the Launch Operations Directorate (LOD) acts as the single point of contact with the missile range concerning all NASA missions at the Cape. LOD also will exercise overall launch and test direction of assigned NASA programs.

The center will provide facilities and services under its control to the Launch Operations Directorate according to the priority and precedence of NASA programs. In addition to launch support, tracking and technical data reduction, this also includes such services as aircraft support, recovery operations to locate and retrieve components, photographic services, etc.

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# NASA News

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September 1, 1961

## 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

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. -- A schedule is being drawn up for acquisition of 80,000 acres of Florida land for a large space vehicle launch facility, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced today. Procedures are being established at Cape Canaveral for acquisition of the land north and west of the present Air Force Missile Test Center facilities at the Cape.

NASA announced August 24 that it intends to expand the Cape Canaveral facilities for manned lunar flight and other missions requiring advanced Saturn and Nova boosters.

Agencies involved in the acquisition are NASA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Justice. The Corps will act as real estate acquisition agent for NASA and the Lands Division of the Justice Department will handle legal aspects.

Detailed procedures will be completed as quickly as possible so that land acquisition can begin. Direct negotiation with land owners in the area will begin in about 90 days. Individual land owners will be contacted by local Corps of Engineer representatives over a period of many months.

The agencies concerned are determined that all owners receive just compensation and that they receive it as rapidly as possible. Owners involved will be kept informed of all developments in the acquisition program.

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**September 12, 1961**

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**Launch Operations Directorate**  
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**Patrick Air Force Base, Florida**  
**UL7-4318, UL7-2861**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Manned Lunar Landing Program, in addition to programs scheduled at the Air Force Missile Test Center, will have a significant impact on the continued growth of Brevard County and Central Florida during the next decade, Governor Farris Bryant and state officials were told today.

Preliminary information on how expanded operations are expected to affect local communities was presented as part of a two-hour briefing conducted jointly by Major General L. I. Davis, AFMTC Commander, and Dr. Kurt H. Debus, Director of NASA Launch Operations.

NASA representatives covered the present operational aspects of the Manned Lunar Landing Program to include the space vehicles, launch facility construction, barge transportation systems and personnel buildup. Also presented were safety considerations, land acquisition schedules and preliminary plans for the new launch site.

AFMTC representatives briefed on commercial transportation requirements as well as the impact of increased population on schools, hospitals and housing in the Brevard-Volusia County area.

The Governor's party was briefed that presently available information indicates that the permanent work force at the new site, Cape Canaveral, and AFMTC will increase by about 9,300 -- from the present 21,000 people to roughly 30,000 during the next five to 10 years. These figures are based on the latest planning information but may be revised because of technical advancements, budget adjustments, Congressional action and world conditions.

With this influx of new permanent employees, it is expected that overall an additional 26,000 persons will come to Central Florida. This estimate is based on experience factors during the Air Force Missile Test Center buildup which occurred during the 1950s.

Of the estimated 9,300 new permanent workers, it is expected that from 80 to 85 percent will work at the new site and Cape Canaveral, while the remainder will be employed at Patrick Air Force Base.

In general, the demand for new housing units is not expected to be an acute problem at this time, AFMTC officials said. In the past, Brevard County has built up to 5,000 new dwellings a year and presumably could, if necessary, build even more. Mr. A. Donald Fielding, District Director of the Federal Housing Authority, was present at today's meeting, and he is now in the process of conducting preliminary housing surveys.

The influx of the expected 9,300 new permanent workers will be spread over a period of a number of years. According to an AFMTC study, existing plans for expanding the public school system in Brevard County from its present enrollment of over 26,000 students to a planned enrollment capacity of 34,000 by 1964 should meet initial requirements, although

some expansion will be needed. Experience gained during the 1950s indicates that projected growth alone will bring in some 4,600 new students in the next five years.

Present hospital expansion programs in Brevard County will be completed next year, giving the county 375 hospital beds and bringing the number of beds per thousand persons to near the national level, an AFMTC survey showed. Additional facilities -- presently estimated at 100 beds -- can be added to existing hospitals in the area.

No difficulties are foreseen in the area of water supply, power and related utilities. Present Cape and AFMTC water consumption runs to 6 million gallons daily. This will increase to a daily use of some 8.5 million gallons in the 1965-70 time period.

It was estimated that the present population of the Atlantic Missile Range employees and their dependents -- 60,200 -- will increase to 86,200 in the 1966-1970 period. This is exclusive of additional commercial trade and support elements.

It was emphasized in the briefing that the information presented was based only on projected permanent working population.

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### NOTE TO EDITORS:

Correspondents and photographers who wish to cover the second manned Mercury suborbital flight (MR-4) -- tentatively scheduled for the week of July 16 -- should write to the Director, Public Information, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington 25, D. C., for accreditation. Such requests must reach NASA by July 14. As in the first manned Mercury flight, certain phases of MR-4 will be pooled.

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

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**Public Information Office**

**Patrick Air Force Base, Florida**

**UL7-4318, UL7-2861**

The Saturn barge Palaemon was involved in a minor accident early today with a vessel of Norwegian registry. The accident occurred at 5:00 a.m. in the Mississippi River below New Orleans.

The barge incurred only slight damage which will have no effect on the Saturn program. The above deck hangar in which the Saturn booster will be transported was dented. Neither the booster weight simulator nor the dummy S-V stage aboard was damaged.

There were no injuries. The barge is on a trial run to Cape Canaveral in preparation for transporting the first Saturn launch vehicle to Canaveral later this year.

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**UL7-4318, UL7-2861**

With three powerful new space boosters scheduled to make their launching debuts before the end of the year, the NASA Launch Operations Directorate plans to increase its technical team at Cape Canaveral.

The directorate, a part of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, handles the "shooting end" for satellite and space vehicle programs conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Before the end of the year, Dr. Kurt H. Debus and his LOD crew expect to launch the 1.5 million pound thrust Saturn, Atlas Agena-B and Centaur on development flights from the Cape. A NASA spokesman said expansion plans presently involve the addition of engineers experienced in project coordination for these three programs.

A recruiting drive is underway to bolster the present LOD staff of about 450.

Several positions also are open for engineers trained in countdown coordination operations. No previous missile experience is required for a number of other electrical engineering jobs.

The salaries for these Civil Service positions range from \$5,335 to \$10,635 per annum.

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**UL7-4318, UL7-2861**

John J. Neilon (left), Chief of the NASA Delta Project Office at Cape Canaveral, is cited for 10 years service as a missileman. Presenting the 10-year pin is Robert Gray, Chief of the Field Projects Branch of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Neilon played a key role in the Vanguard satellite program as head of the Data Processing Section prior to being assigned to the Delta Project a year ago. The Delta team launched the highly successful Echo passive communications and Tiros weather satellites. A native of Lawrence, Massachusetts, Neilon and his wife Patricia and their daughter Pat now make their home in Cocoa Beach.

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