

News



LEWIS RESEARCH center

X-Ref.

21000 BROOKPARK ROAD CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE - (AREA CODE 216) 433-4000 EXT. 415

CW Weiss
5001

4-4

B-1-2-5-15

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Release 68-32

Hugh W. Harris
(res: 777-2228)

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 10 -- I. Irving Pinkel, recently named Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Aerospace Safety Research and Data Institute, brings an international reputation in aircraft and spacecraft safety to his new job.

The Institute which was established April 26 at NASA's Lewis Research Center is a creative approach to the problem of maintaining the highest safety standards possible in the nation's aerospace program. The new organization will combine the present body of information on safety with data generated through a broad research program. The combined data will be stored using new computer techniques to provide for easy access.

Pinkel, who entered government service in 1935 as a physicist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, has been with the former National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and NASA since 1940. For many years he has been a consultant to the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Air Force on aircraft safety. In this capacity Pinkel has helped investigate many of the major aircraft accidents both in this country and abroad. Early last year he was a consultant and investigator on the tragic Apollo 204 fire. More recently he has been advising the Army on survivability of aircraft in Viet Nam, especially as it relates to helicopters.

- more -

In discussing the Institute, Pinkel said, "The mission of the Safety Institute is to assemble both old and new information on safety and organize it into forms most useful and most easily understood by the engineers and technologists who must apply the information. We will help in interpretation when novel safety problems arise and act as consultants whenever necessary.

"One of the chief contributions the Institute expects to make is in the science of information handling and retrieval and the art of making searches through the use of modern computers. There are four major objectives we hope to meet:

1. Evaluate existing information on safety and place it in computer storage in a systematic way for easy retrieval.
2. Add to the body of existing information through research programs sponsored and supported by the Institute.
3. Prepare several types of reports including safety advisories, safety summaries and educational safety material. Included in the safety summaries will be up-to-date compilations of safety technology and practices.
4. Provide consultants to assist in the analysis of safety problem and the application of safety data to a particular job."

Pinkel says the Institute will start with a core program designed to meet NASA's immediate safety interests. This core program will be prepared in cooperation with both NASA's operating elements and those of NASA's prime contractors. The initial program will make use of existing funds of safety information and strive to avoid duplication.

"The Safety Institute does not replace any of the existing safety organizations which have functioned so effectively in the past," Pinkel points out. "Its purpose is to give technical support and advance our knowledge where present technology is weakest."

Pinkel was born in Gloversville, New York, on April 22, 1913. He was graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania in 1934. As an undergraduate he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, honorary

scientific society, and Pi Mu Epsilon, honorary mathematics fraternity.

In 1953, Pinkel received the Flight Safety Foundation Award for "contributions to the safe utilization of aircraft." In 1956, he received the Laura Taber Barbour Award for "development of a system for suppressing aircraft crash fires." And in 1957, he was awarded the NACA Distinguished Service Medal. In 1963, he received the Sustained Superior Performance Award from NASA.

For the past 13 years he has been Chief of Lewis' Fluid System Components Division. In this capacity he directed research on rocket propellant and electric power generation systems for space vehicles, compressors and turbines for advanced aircraft engines, and lubrication systems for rotating machines for these systems.

He is also a member of the NASA Research and Technology Advisory Subcommittee on Aircraft Operating Problems.

Pinkel and his wife, Anne, reside at 4671 West 210th Street, Fairview Park, Ohio. They have two sons who are in college.

#