

7 May 1956

Lt Colonel John P. Stapp USAF (MC)
Chief, Aero Medical Field Laboratory
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

Dear Colonel Stapp:

I have read the test report No. 9, Project 7850, Task 78503, date of report 23 February 1956, in which the use of jet oil as a track lubricant, to attain higher sled velocities is reported. I should like to suggest the use of silicone or silicone oil coatings of the track and contact surfaces on the sled, provided this coating substance has not already been tried. In my limited experience, this decreases surface frictions of metal parts, considerably.

Should you decide to investigate silicones for this purpose, please inform me as to the results.

Dr. Strughold sends his best regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES G. GAUME, M.D.
Department of Space Medicine

JGG:mbn

10 July 1956

Postmark 16 July 1956

James G. Gaume, M.D.
Department of Space Medicine
School of Aviation Medicine, USAF
Randolph Air Force Base
Randolph Field, Texas

Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 7th was referred to me by Colonel Stapp. Your suggestion as to employing silicone oil coatings is appreciated as yet however we have not had an opportunity to try this method and compare it with the jet oil already used.

As soon as the present series of tests is completed and further evaluation from an engineering standpoint is continued I shall suggest the use of the silicone to the engineers who monitor our Short Track Facility. When this testing is done I shall ask them to forward an evaluation of the results to you.

Thank you for your interest and suggestions concerning our project here.

Very sincerely,

Wilbur C. Blount

Wilbur C. Blount
1/Lt., USAF
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Holloman AFB, N.M.