

DA-71-L412

Dr. Eberhard Rees
Director
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

Dear Eberhard:

Your letter of July 30, 1971, and my letter of July 30, 1971, concerning the Skylab medical experiments evidently criss-crossed in the mail. Dick Johnston has indicated that he talked briefly with you and Lee Belew on Sunday, August 1, 1971, about the status of the Skylab medical experiments and the importance of the timely delivery of this equipment to meet the orbital workshop schedules. We have taken positive steps in the management of this program to make delivery of these experiments in January 1972. I would like to assure you that we intend to make every effort to meet this schedule. Design problems with the blood pressure measuring system, the leg volume measuring system and the vectorcardiogram have been verified through a series of tests in your laboratory. Corrective design actions are underway by our contractors and we feel confident that these problems will be solved. The other problems of concern are the apparent absorption of carbon dioxide by the silica gel cartridge in the MSFC furnished metabolic analyzer and the potential problem of overheating the crewmen while performing the lower body negative pressure experiment. Tests are underway at MSC to better define these problems.

You noted in your letter that MSC had not formally defined a single point of contact to you for the medical experiments. We had thought that members of your staff understood that we moved Dick Johnston into the Medical Directorate in October 1970 to provide engineering management for the medical experiments. During the medical experiment CDR in October 1970 at MSFC this assignment was announced to the medical experiment team. In December 1970, John Stonesifer was appointed Chief of the Project Support Division and was designated as the manager of the

medical experiments. In this capacity he is the individual who signs technical direction to your group at MSFC. While Mr. Stonesifer is responsible for the day-to-day management of the medical experiment program, we should encourage working discussions between Bill Huffstetler who is responsible to Mr. Stonesifer for detailed technical engineering management of the medical experiments and his counterparts at MSFC. Chuck Berry and Dick Johnston provide management supervision of this activity at the Directorate level.

On August 3, 1971, a joint telephone conference was held between NASA Headquarters, MSFC, KSC, and MSC to review the current medical experiment status. During this meeting, all open problems were reviewed and current schedules were discussed. We are working closely with your staff on the integration and checkout of the medical experiments into the OWS.

We will be glad to discuss any specific issues you might have on August 13, at the Center Director's meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Gilruth
Director

cc:

KA/K.S. Kleinknecht

DA/R.S. Johnston

DE/J.C. Stonesifer

DA/RSJohnston:vh:8/9/71:3503

Rewritten: DA/CABerry:fk:8/10/71/4568

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CONCURRENCES							
OFFICE CODE	DA	KA					
INITIALS	DA/CABerry	KA					
DATE	8/10/71	8/10/71					



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, ALABAMA 35812

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Action	AA.....
Info	AB, AC,....
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REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

DIR

TO:

Manned Spacecraft Center
Attn: AA/Dr. R. Gilruth

FROM:

DIR/Dr. E. Rees

SUBJECT: Biomedical Experiment Hardware Delivery Schedules

Delivery schedules for a number of experiments are being critically examined because of their potential impact on carrier module schedules. Due to their significance to the Skylab Program and to their integration complexity, the group of biomedical experiments is of immediate concern.

Progress on the integrated systems tests which are being performed by MSFC on the Experiment Support System (ESS), and related experiments, have been delayed in recent months by problems associated with ESS components procured by MSC from private contractors. For example, the vectorcardiogram and leg volume measuring components have generated electromagnetic interference in data signals of such magnitude as to require redesign. The resulting delays are potentially serious.

In order that MSFC maintain its capability to react immediately upon redelivery of the ESS components, I have reiterated to all of our MSFC participants the commitment of this Center to this very important hardware. I have also reemphasized the focal responsibility of Mr. Robert J. Schwinghamer as the MSFC single point of contact, and urged him to maintain very close contact with his counterpart at MSC.

In connection with this latter point, we noted that the MSC single point of contact has not been formally defined since the reassignment of Dr. George Armstrong in October 1970.

B -
Make sure someone from MSFC is prepared to discuss all this on Fri with MSFC/USC mgt.

OK

As you know, projected delivery of the ESS and related experiment hardware to Huntington Beach, California, is now January 1972. This is the latest practicable receipt date if we are to avoid impact to delivery of the Workshop. Yet, we note with some concern that these deliveries in the past have shifted progressively from April 1971 to July 1971 to the current projection.

Due to the serious implications of further schedule delays on this hardware, I suggest that we discuss it in detail at the Center Directors' meeting at MSC on August 13, 1971. I have asked Mr. Leland Belew, MSFC, Skylab Program Manager, and Mr. Robert Schwinghamer to work with your representatives in effectively resolving and presenting this subject.

Eberhard Rees

Eberhard Rees
Director