

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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MSC:DA March 5, 1970

TO : DC7/Chief, Water and Waste Management

FROM : CB/R. W. Cunningham

SUBJECT: Manned test of new fecal bag prototype

This writer conducted a manned test of the subject hardware on March 4, 1970. Of necessity, this was a test to destruction. My comments of the above test assume a certain familiarity with the new configuration, as well as that of the older Apollo package.

The volume of the bag was more than adequate, and the three-finger cott was an improvement. In most other respects, I found the new design lacking. The stays, meant to hold the top of the bag open, resulted surprisingly in keeping the upper portion of the bag about half open. The three-finger cott mistakenly, I believe, had the seam on the inside. This should be corrected.

The new top of the bag has an interesting concept for interfacing with the subject. In actual practice, it did not work as well as expected. The correct positioning of the bag was hampered somewhat by the wide top. The retention of the bag to the subject was hampered by lack of sealant on the top surface, and the straps with sticky-back and velcro did not overcome the handicap:

Because of the inability to position the bag as well as desired, it was difficult to avoid making a "mess." Also, the bag was not easily rolled into a small package if this mode of disposal is ever intended.

It is this writer's opinion that these items definitely have to be tested in this manner. I believe the Medical Directorate personnel charged with the development of these items should refrain from any definitive judgments on new equipment until they have performed manned tests themselves at least three or four times. This kind of manned operation can affect your judgment tremendously. It should also be compared with manned testing of the existing Apollo fecal package.

Walt Cunningham
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CB:RWCunningham:la 3-5-70



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