

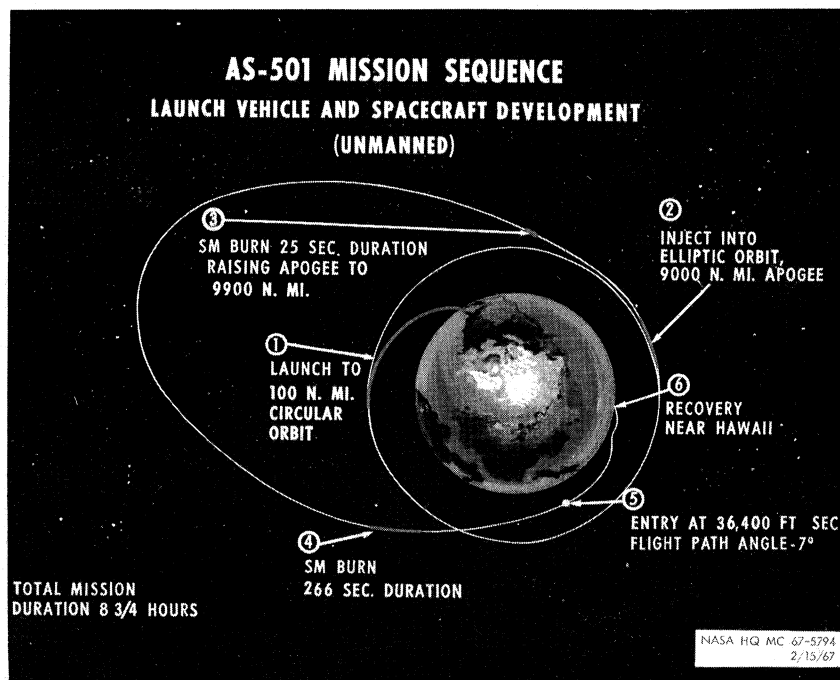


FIGURE 19

REVIEW OF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION IN LIGHT OF THE AS-204 ACCIDENT

Procedures

Our procedures have in the past required that each test to be conducted be reviewed from the safety standpoint. We will now ensure that the review assume the possibility of fire in the spacecraft cabin and provide for careful identification of hazardous test conditions and establishment of appropriate emergency equipment, personnel procedures, and training.

We will tighten procedures and safeguards to ensure that materials in the spacecraft cabin are controlled, recognizing the possibility of fire, and that the test configuration of the spacecraft fully take this possibility into account. Finally, we are taking steps to ensure the early availability of procedures so that adequate reviews are carried out.

Electrical system

A reevaluation of the electrical power system and cabling is under way to determine whether or not changes of cable design, fabrication and routing will provide greater assurance of protection from damage and therefore improved assurance that we have done all that is practical to minimize potential ignition sources.

Communications system

The AS-204 accident occurred while the checkout countdown was being held to rectify communications difficulties. While there is no indication that this was directly a factor in the fire, it is nevertheless important that the many interconnecting organizational elements be able to communicate efficiently at all times. We are, therefore, reviewing all circuits, interconnections, monitoring and check-out procedures to determine whether or not changes are required to improve the total communications system.