

We have arranged with the Office of Tracking and Data Acquisition and with Goddard Space Flight Center to use these stations on a limited basis as they become operational, and then gradually to increase the system use to meet full requirements as we enter a completely operational configuration.

Communication satellites

As you know, our Manned Space Flight Network will utilize satellite communication services provided by the Communications Satellite Corporation. We have shown here the three stations which already have a Comsat ground facility. Service began February 5, 1967 using a Pacific satellite. A satellite for Atlantic coverage will be launched in March 1967.

We also will have three stations which are capable of handling live television—Merritt Island, Madrid, and Goldstone. The MILA capability is already in operation and will be used on the first manned mission, while the other two stations will come in at a later point in time, prior to the first lunar mission.

Ships and aircraft

This chart shows the implementation schedule for the ships and the eight instrumented aircraft (fig. 98, MA66-8950). Ships include three Apollo instrumentation ships, two reentry ships, and the two Gemini ships which will continue to be used until the Apollo ships become operational.

The VANGUARD is undergoing testing at Cape Kennedy and is ready for support of Apollo missions. It does not have a Comsat capability at the present time but will be brought back into the yard at a later date for modification. The REDSTONE and the MERCURY will have the Comsat capability when they are delivered.

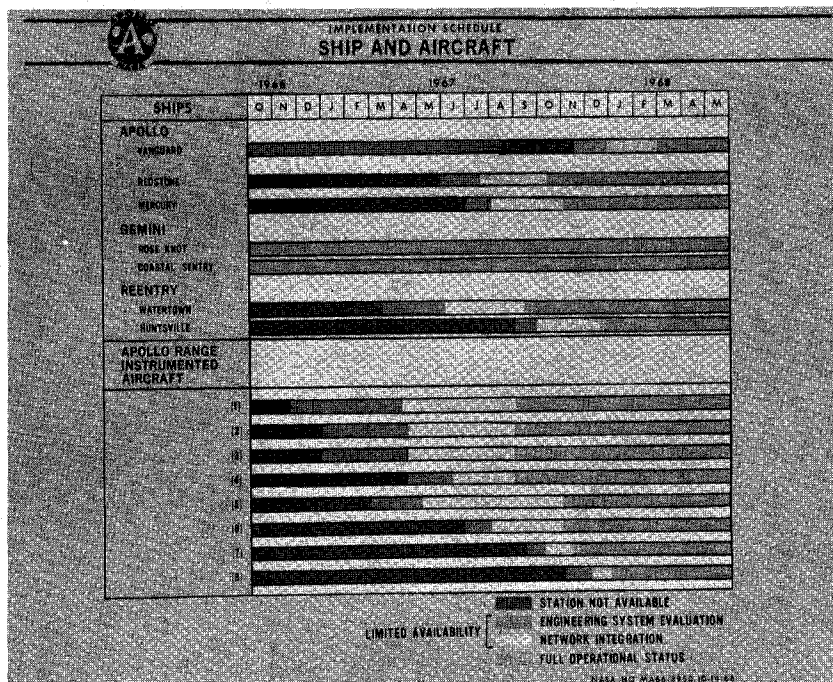


FIGURE 98