

The checkout computer capability of KSC consists of a large number of computer systems which are an integral part of space-vehicle pre-launch and launch operation activities. Also, to support real-time data requirements during launch, computers are used in the Apollo Launch Data System (ALDS) to pre-process TM data from KSC and ETR sites prior to transmission to MCC at Houston.

1.4 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Although operational computer control is vested in the directors of the respective Centers, the Office of Manned Space Flight (OMSF), Washington, D.C., maintains both organizational and functional control through the chain of supervision to each Center Director. Overall program control is assured through the OMSF review and evaluation process and through the issuance of policy directives. The NASA Deputy Administrator, Dr. Robert C. Seamans, is the final authority on NASA computer resources. In this capacity, he draws on the Office of Tracking and Data Acquisition (OTDA) for staff assistance and on the Office of Programming for budget-policy execution.

Within overall NASA policy, MSF has delegated the day-to-day operational control of computer resources to computational elements within each Center. Each Center Director has final authority on delegated computer matters. Each director has further delegated this authority to operating heads in keeping with the differences that exist in the mission and organizational structure of each Center.

At MSFC, the Computation Laboratory plans, establishes, and conducts a program for application of high-speed computers and automation devices to the scientific and general engineering aspects of launch-vehicle research, development, test, and fabrication, as well as to the areas of management and project direction.

At KSC, the Data Systems Division maintains cognizance of the instrumentation systems used to obtain test data for manned and unmanned flight and fulfills all requirements for general-purpose scientific and data reduction computing, special-purpose checkout computing, concurrent real-time TM and display computing, and quick-look data-reduction applications. This assignment includes the planning and execution of test-data handling and management-information data processing for business applications.

At MSC, computation functions are controlled by two organizational elements. The Flight Operations Directorate is responsible for the computers used in the direct control of manned space vehicles; the