

BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSMAN OLIN E. TEAGUE,
CHAIRMAN, AND THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FEBRUARY 25, 1967

BY EDWARD SEARS, PROJECT MANAGER OF KSC COMMUNICATIONS
PROJECT, RCA

SUMMARY OF BRIEFING

Presented to: Manned Space Flight Sub-Committee of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Science.

Place: Communications Control Room, Launch Control Center, John F. Kennedy Space Center.

Mr. Sears explained that RCA's responsibilities as a Mission Support Contractor at KSC under Contract NAS10-1052 include operation and maintenance, planning, and engineering assistance to the design agency for ground communications systems at KSC and at NASA operated facilities at Cape Kennedy. The RCA Project at KSC is a member of the Field Projects branch of the RCA Government Services Division. In reference to the NASA KSC organization, the Project is responsible to the Director of Technical Support for contract performance. The Project was formed in January 1964 and now has a strength of approximately 500 personnel.

The Project is responsible for those communications systems used in direct support of tests and launches and indirect support systems. Direct support systems include Operational Intercommunication Systems (OIS) used to coordinate critical operations and Operational Television (OTV) used to monitor hazardous operations. The direct support systems are identified in the Apollo Ground Support Equipment Criticality list as Category II systems. This means that a failure in these systems could result in damage to the space vehicle and/or launch complex, or rescheduling of the test or launch date. Indirect-support systems are administrative intercommunications, public address and paging, and mobile radio, to name a few. Due to the vastness of KSC, the systems are quite far flung.

It was stressed by Mr. Sears that, due to the division of work among contractors at KSC, coordination of efforts is of the utmost importance. Since no one contractor can perform independent of the others, responsiveness and cooperation form the key to successful attainment of the objectives. To gain the needed coordination, all test and launch support is identified and programed in advance so that all contractors know exactly what they are to provide.

For each test and launch, the RCA Project reviews all communications support requirements submitted by user activities and determines whether existing resources are capable of providing the support. For those cases where resources are not adequate, coordination with user activity is accomplished to develop alternate methods of support or the requirements are submitted to the design agency, who provides for the needed modification or expansion of facilities. Following review of support requirements, the Project submits documentation through channels to the Test Support Management Office of the Technical Support Directorate committing the necessary resources and thereby assuring adequate provision of support.

Prior to the test or launch, the Project establishes the proper system configurations (in accordance with the support commitments described in previous paragraph) and validates the system to ensure operating parameters are met. Once validated, the systems are protected to ensure that no action is taken that could interrupt operation of communications needed for critical operations.