

# NASA - LANGLEY

September 25, 1961

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

### NASA ANNOUNCES MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AND TOP-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AND TOP-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS IN THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY. JAMES E. WEBB, NASA ADMINISTRATOR, SAID THE CHANGES WERE KEYS TO THE NATION'S ACCELERATED CIVILIAN SPACE PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANNED LUNAR EXPLORATION, AND HAVE TWO MAJOR OBJECTIVES. THESE ARE/SEMI/ REALIGNMENT OF THE HEADQUARTERS TECHNICAL PROGRAM OFFICES TO PROVIDE CLEARER FOCUS AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON NASA'S MAJOR PROGRAMS, AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTORS OF NASA'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AN INCREASED VOICE IN POLICY MAKING AND PROGRAM DECISIONS.

PERSONNEL CHANGES, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, INCLUDE APPOINTMENT OF/SEMI/

IRA H. ABBOTT, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAMS, AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY.

DR. HOMER E. NEWELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAMS, AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCES.

APPOINTMENT OF D. BRAINERD HOLMES, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE MAJOR DEFENSE SYSTEMS DIVISION, RCA, AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT WAS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK.

A DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF APPLICATIONS REMAINS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

WEBB ALSO ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF /SEMI/

THOMAS F. DIXON, NAMED LAST MONTH DIRECTOR OF NASA'S OFFICE OF LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAMS AS DEPUTY ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.

DR. ABE SILVERSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAMS, AS DIRECTOR OF THE LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER, CLEVELAND, OHIO, A POSITION NOW VACANT.

ROBERT R. GILRUTH, DIRECTOR OF SPACE TASK GROUP, LANGLEY FIELD, VIRGINIA, AS DIRECTOR OF NASA'S NEW MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

THE CHANGES PLACE NEW EMPHASIS ON FOUR MAJOR AREAS /SEMI/

1. MANNED SPACE FLIGHT, INCLUDING LUNAR EXPLORATION/SEMI/  
2. SPACE SCIENCES, IN TERMS OF UNMANNED SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF SPACE, THE MOON AND THE PLANETS/SEMI/ 3. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL WEATHER AND COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES, AND 4. ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN BOTH AERONAUTICS AND SPACE.

PROGRAM OFFICE DIRECTORS WILL REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, DR. ROBERT C. SEAMANS, JR.

WITHIN HIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM AREA, THE DIRECTOR OF EACH OF THESE FOUR OFFICES WILL HAVE OVER-ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE AGENCY. PROGRAM DIRECTORS WILL ESTABLISH TECHNICAL GUIDELINES, BUDGET AND PROGRAM FUNDS, SCHEDULE EACH PROJECT, AND EVALUATE PROGRESS.

THE OFFICE OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAMS WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVER-ALL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND EVALUATION FOR THE VARIOUS MANNED SPACE FLIGHT PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE SPACECRAFT, LAUNCH VEHICLE, GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, TRACKING STATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. EACH OF THESE ELEMENTS MUST BE DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED WITH THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP TO THE OTHER ELEMENTS.

THE NEW ORGANIZATION PLANS INTEGRATE THE PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF LIFE SCIENCES INTO EACH OF NASA'S PROGRAMS.

MR. WEBB SAID, "THIS ASSURES A MORE INTIMATE WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LIFE SCIENCES IN THE AREAS OF BASIC RESEARCH, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS." AEROSPACE MEDICINE WILL BE A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT/SEMI/ SPACE BIOLOGY, THE OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCES/SEMI/ AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, THE OFFICE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY.

DIRECTORS OF NASA'S MAJOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR. AS DEPUTY ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, MR. DIXON WILL ASSIST IN OVER-ALL DIRECTION OF THE CENTERS, AND WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAUNCH VEHICLES OTHER THAN SATURN CLASS AND LARGER. THE LATTER WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT.

WEBB POINTED OUT THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES FOLLOWED CAREFUL ANALYSIS AND STUDY OF INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZING AND MANAGING LARGE, COMPLEX TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICE OF THE NAVY /POLARIS/ AND AIR FORCE WEAPONS SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT.