Scout Shot
Veers Off, Destroyed

The space agency announced that it destroyed early today a Scout rocket carrying a heat shield experiment when the rocket veered off course a few seconds after it was launched from Wallops Island.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said there were no injuries or damage to its installation when the rocket was exploded at 1:44 a.m. Cause of the rocket trouble was still being investigated, it said.

The experiment was designed to find out how well a spacecraft heat shield material called "charming ablator" would react during re-entry into the atmosphere at 18,600 miles per hour. The shield was manufactured from a mixture of plastic plus other ingredients, such as fiberglass.

The agency said the material had worked well in previous re-entries at 17,000 miles per hour from orbital flights. Today's unsuccessful test was part of the research on how it would react to faster speeds expected during re-entry from a lunar mission.

The three stage rocket carried a payload of 375 pounds and was designed to land nearly 1,000 miles down range about 12 minutes after launching.

Satellite Launching Unnoticed

WASHINGTON, July 5—(AP)—The Air Force launched a satellite from Wallops Island, Va., a week ago—with the least public notice of any United States orbital shot on record.

So thoroughly overlooked was the launching—first of its kind—that public relations personnel at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., which supervises Wallops, were unaware when questioned Friday that it had taken place.

A spokesman for headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Wash.), also was unfamiliar with the event. Later he said he vaguely remembered something that was the Air Force's responsibility, not NASA's.

The Air Force said it released last Friday this announcement: "A satellite using the Scout booster was launched today by NASA for the Air Force from Wallops Island at 4:25 p.m. EDT."

The Air Force declined to release other information as to the size or purpose of the launch. However, a recently released "satellite situation report" released by Goddard Friday identified June 28 satellite No. 1963 ASA as a "research satellite for geophysics."

The satellite is orbiting between the altitudes of 255 and 80 miles, and takes an hour and 42 minutes to complete each circuit of the Earth.