ISRAEL TABACK
Viking Chief Engineer

Israel Taback was born in 1920. He attended New York City Schools. Taback graduated from Cooper Union in 1942 and came to NACA that same year. He took courses at the University of Virginia and received an honorary doctorate from Old Dominion University in 1986.

While at NACA, Taback engaged in designing aircraft instruments until 1959, at which time he was responsible for the X-15 instrumentation.

In 1980, the Lunar Orbiter Series began with Boeing as prime contractors. The team was successful in completing five out of five, taking pictures of the lunar surface.

Taback studied hard landers for Mars until 1970, at which time the Mars contract was signed with the Martin Company, Denver, Colo. (producing Titans for the United States Air Force).

Taback retired from NASA in 1975 after the successful launching of both Viking spacecraft from Cape Canaveral. Both Viking landers landed successfully on Mars in 1976.