



Titan IIC success set the stage for renewed concern for space duplication.

SPACE

Space War—On Ground

By Jonathan Eberhart

► UNDER the shadow of the Air Force's spectacular success on the way to a long-term home for military men in orbit, high administration planners are worrying that two of the Government's most powerful agencies still seem to be rocketing toward the same expensive goal in space.

The USAF Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) wide-ranging Apollo Extension Systems (AES) program have been battling it out for funds since December 1964, when Congress held up both projects while it tried to decide whether it was paying twice for the same merchandise. Four years later, with fiscal 1968 budgets in the works, sharp eyes still scrutinize every little proposal for fear of duplication.

Last week's shot was one of the most elaborate in U.S. space history. Once in space, the Titan IIC burned out and rammed an unmanned Gemini capsule back into the atmosphere, restarted, burned out, restarted, went into orbit and ejected three satellites.

The MOL idea has been part of Government thinking, since 1963.

MOL proponents argue that with all the money NASA is spending to get to the moon, nothing is left to investigate the military potential of space.

NASA, on the other hand, points out that MOL will almost certainly be a one-shot deal, with no continuing space program to make use of its discoveries.

In each case, however, there is more at stake than a single space station. The Air Force, now limited to secret satellites and reconnaissance flights for much of its surveillance, longs to get a human aloft for long periods of time, where he can keep tabs on nuclear testing, missile development and the like.

For NASA, the AES represents potentially years of space flights, including budgets for earth-orbital, trans-lunar, lunar-orbital and lunar surface missions, all involving modified Apollo hardware. The use of existing equipment is a big part of NASA's argument, since the cost of developing new hardware can easily double or triple the final price.

The military-civilian issue is more than a paper problem. Gemini 5 Astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad, for example, conducted a few experiments for DOD during their flight and caused some question of whether they had compromised what was supposed to be a peaceful mission. The two camps, therefore, have been faced with keeping their roles separate while making them broad enough to satisfy the policymakers in case it was decided to select only one program or the other.

MOL is now a firm commitment, though whether the Air Force will expand its effort into a series of space stations (as was suggested in June 1965 by a Senate committee) is unknown.

NASA has more of a problem. Once it has landed men on the moon, what next? Some authorities say that an AES-type effort would be the ideal way to reap returns from the \$20 billion Apollo moon project.

MEDICINE

Polyp, Hernia Like LBJ's Not Rare

► THE TWO medical conditions—a throat polyp and incisional hernia—with which President Johnson startled the nation last week should surprise neither experienced public speakers nor persons who have undergone abdominal surgery. Speakers do get polyps, and incisions occasionally need repair. The President announced plans to undergo surgery for both. A whirlwind last minute political stumping tour clearly would have aggravated both month-old conditions.

The polyp in the President's throat was noted last August in the region of the right vocal cord. It cleared up from time to time but surgery was recommended just prior to last month's Asian trip.

Symptoms of such a polyp, often called "singer's nodes," include intermittent or constant hoarseness, usually of a slight degree. Vocal fatigue or sensation of a foreign body may be noticed. The President's polyp is about the size of a small protruding grape.

The President spoke as many as 25 times in a single day on his trip to Australia, and his voice became particularly hoarse at the end of a long speaking day. He blamed his hoarseness, however, on the dehumidifying effects of high altitude flying.

A key Federal Aviation Agency doctor agrees this is possible.

"The continual flying undoubtedly accentuated the hoarseness," said FAA's Dr. Stanley Mohler. A lack of time spent on the ground between flights accounts for the loss of moisture suffered by all persons who fly at 30,000 to 40,000 feet so continuously.

Doctors say in most cases polyps are not cancerous. They are routinely tested for malignancy, however.

As for the abdominal repair work, Dr. George Burkley, physician to the President, said although the scar from the President's 1965 gall bladder operation appeared to heal completely, in April 1966 a small protrusion was noted. The removal of drains sometime after the surgery might have been a factor. In the last month the protrusion grew to the size of a silver dollar.

Dr. James Cain of the Mayo Clinic, a lifelong physician of the President's, compared the protrusion to the size of a golf ball. President Johnson has been wearing a back brace quite regularly since the bulge first appeared to make him more comfortable.

