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Washington Roundup**NASA Biomed Plans**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration is assuring Congress that it will not duplicate the military services' work at facilities in space medicine. Dr. Clark Randt, chief of NASA's Office of Life Sciences, says he plans to build a small headquarters staff of 16-18 highly qualified professionals this year.

Randt says NASA will stick to basic research and won't duplicate the services applied research in the bio-technology field. Space agency plans a small life sciences research center to permit the headquarters staff to keep current on research.

NASA plans to hold meetings of 30-35 experts in space bio-science within the next month or so to discuss improvement of bio-science experiments in space. Group will try to find better ways to use payloads available in space vehicles. It also will plan payloads aimed primarily at biological experiments.

Human factors expert Alfred M. Mayo will join NASA this month as assistant director for bio-engineering in the Office of Life Science Programs. Mayo currently is chief, equipment and safety research, for Douglas Aircraft Co.

Dr. Cornelius A. Tobias will join the space agency life sciences staff about Sept. 1. Dr. Tobias has studied the effects of radiation on humans. He will be on leave from the University of California.

Public Relations Policy

National public relations policy on key space shots is being set by the White House, not NASA, with Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, staff secretary, playing a key role. Latest Goodpaster idea is to bounce a tape-recorded message from President Eisenhower off the Project Echo communications relay satellite. Original tape stressed peaceful use of space, but plans have changed since the U-2 incident.

USAF's Operation Cherrytree, originally scheduled last month at Maxwell AFB, will now be held May 18-20 at Andrews AFB. Purpose of the meeting is to give top Air Force commanders a chance to take a hard look at weapon system development and production programs over the next decade (AW Apr. 3, p. 25). Conference is to determine the hard core of the USAF weapon structure over that period.

Soviet air force commander Chief Air Marshal K. A. Verzhinina and nine top aides are scheduled to tour key USAF installations in a cross-country tour of the U. S. Soviet group will attend the Armed Forces Day show at Andrews AFB, then leave on a tour that will include Tactical Air Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral and Strategic Air Command base at Ft. Worth, Tex.

USAF Missile Concern

Air Force is concerned over its lack of ballistic missile assembly, test and launch capability. USAF has relied on contractors to handle these functions in research and development launches. Contractors are still used as an important supplement to test and training activities at operational bases.

Major Air Force effort to increase its capabilities may come in the Dyna-Soar program. USAF may try to assume the assembly, test and launch roles in the boost-glider program.

Special House group is evaluating the aircraft nuclear propulsion program. Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee was established after that group questioned ANP progress when it approved the \$75 million Fiscal 1961 request for USAF's share in the program. Members of the special subcommittee now holding closed hearings on ANP are: Reps. George Mahon (D-Tex.), Harry R. Sheppard (D-Calif.), Louis C. Rabaut (D-Mich.), Ben F. Jensen (R-Iowa) and John R. Pillion (R-N. Y.).

Russians apparently recovered the capsule ejected from Discoverer II last year which landed on Spitsbergen. Re-entering capsule and parachute were seen and located by three Norwegians. An intense search of the landing area produced no capsule, but there were signs that it had been found and carried to a nearby Russian colony.

Descending capsule should have been easy to see from the Soviet colony, but the Russians denied any knowledge of it when asked. Discoverer II was supposed to eject the capsule south of Kodiak, Alaska, for recovery near Hawaii. A minor malfunction and a programming error fired the retro-rocket prematurely.

Wrapup

Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to complete hearings on the defense budget this week, then move into closed meetings to make its final decisions. Senate version of the budget is expected by June 15. . . . General Accounting Office report on Air Force management of its ballistic missile programs is scheduled to go to Congress this week. . . . Aviation subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee will begin hearings this week on proposed authority for the CAB to limit the

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