



HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
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17 May 1963

Honorable James E. Webb
Administrator
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

"Mr. Webb has seen this"

Dear Mr. Webb:

Last fall your Office of Manned Space Flight requested that the Corps of Engineers undertake a lunar construction research study. This study has now been completed and our report has been delivered to Mr. D. Brainerd Holmes. I am inclosing a summary of the results for your information.

The two-volume report on this study defines the specific research and development efforts required to provide a lunar construction capability and provides a detailed statement of the scope of those projects recommended for FY 64 funding. It analyzes existing and planned facilities available for such a program, and presents preliminary criteria for additional facilities needed. It recommends that these be combined into a single "Extraterrestrial Engineering Center" devoted to this and related efforts, and provides a suggested plan for organizing, manning and operating this Center. Finally, on the basis of the above, it provides refined estimates of schedules and funding in a time-phased plan of action for achieving a lunar construction capability on a schedule compatible with current NASA thinking for manned lunar exploration.

We have examined several possible plans for implementing the needed research program. Based on our engineering study of the problem, a plan has been recommended that would apply special Army capabilities to this effort and facilitate solution of your requirements. At the same time, such a program undoubtedly would be of benefit to the Army and could help solve some related Army requirements. The suggested plan provides for program direction, management and control by NASA Headquarters and for program execution in terms of in-house effort, direction, and supervision of contractor activity by the new Extraterrestrial Engineering Center. It provides for Corps of Engineers' support to establish, staff, equip and operate this Center to meet the requirements of your Administration. This last seems both an optimum solution and a logical extension of our other construction support in the National Space Program.

Honorable James E. Webb

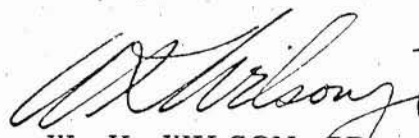
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Our report has not yet been reviewed, nor its conclusions and recommendations concurred in, by the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense. If you desire the participation of the Corps of Engineers in the execution of the program as recommended above, I will seek the necessary concurrence and approvals so that I can initiate early planning for the support desired.

We are happy to have had this further opportunity to assist you in the manned lunar program, and look forward to further participation in the lunar construction program.

My personal congratulations to you on the outstanding successes achieved in yesterday's flight.

Sincerely yours,



W. K. WILSON, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Chief of Engineers

1 Incl
Summary