



O-GO-16-0061-S

December 4, 2015

RECOVERY OF POSSIBLY HISTORICAL 1969 NASA DATA TAPES

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Pittsburgh, PA

CASE INITIATION: This administrative investigation was initiated upon receipt of information from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NASA-OIG, who advised a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in Pittsburgh, PA contacted her regarding a computer with a plate labeled Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) NASA Property and reels of magnetic data tape (reel tapes), several labeled 1969, that were found while an acquaintance was cleaning the residence of a deceased person.

On December 1, 2015, the Reporting Agent (RA) telephonically interviewed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PA, regarding the NASA reels and computer. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) explained he scraps precious metals as a hobby and for additional income. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he was approached by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who was aware of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) scrapping hobby, stating (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) recently passed away and had a lot of electronic equipment at his residence. According to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) explained that he could have anything he wanted from the residence. During the weekend of November 14, 2015, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was cleaning (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) home and discovered approximately 300 reel tapes from NASA GSFC, dating from 1969 to 1972, along with two large computers bearing NASA GSFC markings (from IBM Alleghany Center Pittsburgh, PA). (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) moved the reel tapes to his residence, but left the computers at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence because they were "very heavy" adding that a crane was likely used to move them. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he wanted to do the right thing and return the NASA property. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) relayed he has a key to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence and would accompany OIG investigators to inspect the computers.

This potential recovery of NASA historical items was coordinated with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) History Office, NASA Headquarters (HQ). (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised he would like to review the reel tapes for historical significance; and requested assistance from the OIG in collecting them from Pittsburgh, PA.

Prepared by: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) GSFC
DISTR: File

APPR:

CLASSIFICATION:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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O-GO-16-0061-S

December 9, 2015

RECOVERY OF POSSIBLY HISTORICAL 1969 NASA DATA TAPES

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Pittsburgh, PA

RECOVERY OF POSSIBLY HISTORICAL NASA DATA TAPES: On December 7, 2015 the Reporting Agent and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) coordinated with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PA, regarding a computer with a plate labeled Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), NASA Property and reels of magnetic data tape (reel tapes), several labeled 1969, that he found while cleaning the residence of a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (deceased) located at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Pittsburgh, PA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) explained he scraps precious metals as a hobby and for additional income. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he was approached by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who was aware of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) scrapping hobby, stating (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) passed four years ago and had a lot of electronic equipment at his residence. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reiterated that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told him he could have anything he wanted from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) explained (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was aware that the NASA-OIG was going to retrieve the 325 reel tapes with NASA markings that he removed from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence and transported to his residence located at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) relayed that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told him, "Please tell NASA these items were not stolen. They belonged to IBM Alleghany Center Pittsburgh, PA 15212. During the 1968-1972 timeframe, IBM was getting rid of the items so (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) asked if he could have them and was told he could have them." (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reiterated that he wanted to do the right thing and return the NASA property.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) accompanied the RA and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence where photos were taken of a computer with a plate labeled Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) NASA Property (Attachment 1-33). The NASA OIG loaded and transported the reel tapes from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence to Building 16W, GSFC, where they were transferred to the GSFC Knowledge Management and Library Services, awaiting a review by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Knowledge Management and Library Services, Facilities Management Division, Management Operations Directorate.

Attachments:

1-33. Photos of computer with a plate labeled GSFC, NASA Property.

Prepared by: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) GSFC
DISTR: File

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O-GO-16-0061-S

February 1, 2016

RECOVERY OF POSSIBLY HISTORICAL 1969 NASA DATA TAPES

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Pittsburgh, PA

COORDINATION WITH (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : On January 29, 2016, the Reporting Agent (RA) coordinated with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Knowledge Management and Library Services, Facilities Management Division (FMD), Management Operations Directorate (MOD), regarding the status of the computers with a plates labeled Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) NASA Property that were found by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), PA, while cleaning the residence of a deceased person. On January 28, 2016, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) called the RA and asked if NASA wanted the computers returned, because the family of the deceased person wanted them removed from the residence.

On February 1, 2016, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated, "No. We do not need the computers. If we do decide that the content warrants us getting the data off of them, they will have to be sent to a vendor who specializes in magnetic media preservation for transfer. We have no use for those computers" (Attachment). On this date, the RA sent a text message to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) informing him NASA did not want the computers.

Attachment:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) email, Subject: RE: Tapes et al, dated February 1, 2016.

Prepared by: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) GSFC
DISTR: File

APPR:

CLASSIFICATION:

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:52 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (HQ-WIM51)
Subject: RE: Tapes et al

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

No. We do not need the computers. If we do decide that the content warrants us getting the data off of them, they will have to be sent to a vendor who specializes in magnetic media preservation for transfer. We have no use for those computers.

Thanks!

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (HQ-WIM51)
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:14 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: Tapes et al

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I received a call from the person that I got the tapes from and he asked if NASA wanted the machines (tape readers) that are still at the house. The family wants the machines removed. I just wanted to check one more time with you to ensure NASA doesn't want the machines

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 4:04 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <nasa.gov> wrote:

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I have been contacting various people who have put me in touch with more people for the last few weeks. Now I have a meeting with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) from ESDIS on Monday morning to meet and discuss the history of magnetic tape reels here at Goddard. Hopefully, this meeting will put me on the right path to identifying these reels. I'm not sure about the machines....but, I may have an opinion on it after next Monday.

Stay tuned and Happy New Year to you, too!

Best,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 10:36 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Tapes et al

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy New Year! Just wanted to check in with you to see how the tape research was going? Do you think you may need the machines that were in the pictures?

[REDACTED]

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(301) 286-
(301) 675-
(301) 286-

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From: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Tapes et al

Hi [REDACTED]

I have some feelers out and waiting to hear back. [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I did get the CD.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 4:14 PM
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Tapes et al

Hi [REDACTED]

How's the historical hunt going? Just wanted to make sure you go the CD with the pictures I put on your desk last week.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(301) 286-

(301) 675-

(301) 286-

! WARNING ! This email, including any attachments, is intended only for authorized recipients. Recipients may only forward this information as authorized. This email may contain non-public information that is "Law Enforcement Sensitive," "Sensitive but Unclassified," or otherwise subject to the Privacy Act and/or legal and other applicable privileges that restrict release without appropriate legal authority and clearance. Accordingly, the use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this information to or by unauthorized or unintended recipients, including but not limited to non-NASA recipients, may be unlawful.

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 22, 2016
Subject: Magnetic Tapes Appraisal
CC: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Headquarters
[REDACTED]

The Goddard Archives received physical custody of 325 magnetic data tape reels on Tuesday December 8th, 2015. The tapes had been recovered from a residential basement in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the day before by the NASA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and transported to the Goddard Archives for identification and a determination of their historical significance and intrinsic value. The OIG made the decision to bring the tapes to the Goddard Space Flight Center based on printed evidence on a few of the tapes and a Goddard contract number on the computers that were found in the basement alongside the tapes that pointed towards Goddard as the appropriate custodian for such recovered property. The computers were not removed from the residence due to their size and weight.

I conducted an initial assessment of the material on December 10, 2015. This assessment confirmed the approximate number of 325 magnetic data tape reels that each measured 14" in diameter with a magnetic tape dimension of 1/2" and contained by a metal reel. The assessment also showed that the magnetic tapes were in poor condition and almost all were affected by moderate to severe mold, which is identified as a potential health risk. Most of the tapes were not labeled and of the tapes that were labeled, the content appeared to be space science related with missions including Pioneer and Helios and the inclusive dates range was 1967-1974. A final assessment of the tapes on April 13, 2016 further broke down of the content of the tapes into the following:

PN8 [Pioneer 8]: 1 reel
PN9 [Pioneer 9]: 2 reel
PN10 [Pioneer 10]: 40 reels
PN11 [Pioneer 11]: 53 reels
HELI [or] *HEL-A* [Helios 1]: 10 reels
HESA [possibly an abbreviation for Helios A]: 2 reels
Intelsat IV: 2 reels

Unlabeled or labeled without mission-related identifying information: approximately 215 reels

I contacted (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NASA Space Science Data Coordinated Archives (NSSDC) and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Earth Science Data and Information Systems Project (ESDIS), both of whom have experience with early magnetic data tape reels. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and



Appraisal Memo

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) consulted with scientists in their fields at Goddard and the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and came to the determination that these tapes do not contain historically significant information that needs to be preserved and concurred with the disposal decision¹.

In terms of the unlabeled or poorly labeled tapes that make up the majority of this material, it is very difficult to know whether there is any data on these tapes. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) points out that often labels were removed from tapes when the tapes were "scratched" or prepared to be re-used². It is very possible that the unlabeled tapes are blank. In order to read any of the content of any of these tapes, a recovery process would have to be employed. This process is very costly and does not ensure that the tapes will survive the process in order to find out if they even contain readable data. Furthermore, the damage caused by the mold would make it difficult and probably impossible to recover any data from these tapes.

I also reached out to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Procurement Operations Division, and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(F) Property Management, to determine whether the contract numbers found on the computer and on some of the tapes gave any clues to the creation of this material or the content on the blank tapes. Both (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reached out to colleagues who checked legacy contract systems and determined that there were no contract numbers that matched the ones found in this investigation³.

Based on the decision reached by the Goddard science experts and myself that there is no evidence that suggests this material is historically significant and the lack of contextual contract-related information about the creation or the content of this material, coupled with the poor condition and the potential health risk posed by this material, I recommend disposal through the immediate destruction of all magnetic tapes.

¹ See Magtape_Att_1.pdf for email correspondence and final decisions related to disposal thread.

² See Magtape_Att_2.pdf for explanation from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) about tape "scratching".

³ See Magtape_Att_3.pdf and Magtape_Att_4.pdf for email correspondence related to contract numbers.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc:
Subject: Re: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I agree. As we discussed before, I don't see any way we will get anything useful off these tapes.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On Apr 22, 2016, at 9:01 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov> wrote:

Yes. I agree.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>
Date: Friday, April 22, 2016 at 8:51 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@ipl.nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@ipl.nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@ipl.nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@ipl.nasa.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <@nasa.gov>
Subject: RE: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

Hello All,

I have not heard from any of you regarding the need to keep the mission-labeled tapes. I will take your silence as a concurrence with my recommendation for disposal.

Please respond by COB today if you object to this course of action.

Best,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
8800 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD
Office 301.286. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

@nasa.gov

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:36 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov

Subject: RE: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

Hello All,

Thanks so much for the effort that you have all put into this inquiry. I went through every single tape yesterday and have determined the following:

1. There are approximately 215 tapes that I have determined can most definitely be disposed of. These tapes are primarily without labels and a few have labels with no identifying mission information on them.
2. Here is the quantity by mission breakdown for the rest:
 - a. PN8 (Pioneer 8): 1
 - b. PN9 (Pioneer 9): 2
 - c. PN10 (Pioneer 10): 40
 - d. PN11 (Pioneer 11): 53
 - e. HEL1 also used HEL-A (Helios 1): 10
 - f. HESA (possibly an abbreviation for Helios A): 2
 - g. Intelsat IV: 2

As (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said, these are in awful condition. Almost every tape has moderate to severe mold. I used gloves and a mask and I wouldn't recommend keeping any of these being as they are a risk to health and there is no safe place to keep them. Furthermore, recovery of any data would probably be difficult, if not impossible.

So the question would be whether there is an interest or need to keep the tapes relating to the Pioneer missions, being as they are the bulk of the labeled material. If there is a need or desire to recover Pioneer-related tapes, then these tapes will have to be transferred to the interested party and that person or group will assume the risk and cost for these moldy tapes.

As archivist to the Goddard Space Flight Center, I recommend disposal of this material. Please let me know if any of you disagree or have an interest in the mission labeled tapes.

Best Regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
8800 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD

Office 301.286 [REDACTED]
Mobile 240.357 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 8:34 AM
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov>
Subject: Re: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

Thanks for trying! We thought we would make one last push to see if anyone knew anything about these tapes.

We did think the one was from Pioneer-11 but the date looks odd since the tape is clearly marked 1972 and Pioneer 11 launched in 1973. Do you know why there would be that discrepancy?
The stack do appear to be instrumentation analog tapes. But they are also very moldy, so probably unrecoverable.

On Monday John went to the Godard Engineering Colloquium where [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) discussed the heroic effort that JPL scientists and engineers made to recover data from this mission (PN-11) to discover what was slowing down the spacecraft faster than expected over its +10 yr travel time. I think the books are closed on that – although he suggested the way to get funding for this kind of recover is propose some new physics, scientific mystery or quandary that the data could discover.

We will recommend to [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) that she should proceed with her disposal plan.

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:47 PM
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov>
Subject: FW: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] wrote this:

I don't have any ideas about whether the tapes are excessed scratch tapes or something historically useful.

One of them was from Pioneer 11.

Are they computer tapes, or instrumentation tapes? The hub diameter would tell you.

For computer tapes, the hub is typically 3 5/8". For instrumentation tapes, it's typically smaller.

Being 14" diameter reels also suggests they're instrumentation tapes. A 2400' computer tape reel is about 10 1/2" diameter.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(818) 354- (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(818) 687-

On 4/13/16, 5:46 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov wrote:

PN-11 is probably Pioneer 11 – but we heard Monday at the Godard Engineering Colloquium from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) that JPL scientists and engineers made a heroic effort to recover data from this mission to discover what was slowing down the spacecraft faster than expected over its +10 yr travel time. I think the books are closed on that – although he suggested the way to get funding for this kind of recover is propose some new physics, scientific mystery or quandary that the data could discover.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA GSFC, Greenbelt MD 20771

301-614- (office) 240-620- (cell)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 8:21 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @jpl.nasa.gov

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

Subject: Re: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

Thanks (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I was hoping that someone might remember something from the labels. Something about the mission or the acronyms or may have worked with this type of tape before at JPL and it might trigger some memories. I don't think they can be recovered at all (and believe me, [REDACTED] and I have managed to recover all kinds of tapes) but I think this may be something left over from Planetary. I remember [REDACTED] from JPL and would have sent this email to him because he might have remembered, but I don't know how to reach any more. We've been through all the folks we can think of here at GSFC and talked to some retirees here, but no one remembers what the JPL PN-11 was.

Last ditch effort to figure out what they are — we will have to dispose of them, there are 325 tapes.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 5:34 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nasa.gov>

Subject: Re: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

All,

PO.DAAC has never had a tape drive that would read these tapes, and I expect that very few are now in existence (although perhaps you could transfer the tape to a 12 inch reel, and have a better shot at finding something that could read it).

The second image indicates that these are 7-track tapes, and might even be analog instrument data, not digital.

The fourth image is just a label from the tape manufacturer (now known as 3M), and it doesn't have any info about the data on it.

Best Regards,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nasa.gov>

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 1:12 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jpl.nasa.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nasa.gov>

Subject: History Question: Any thoughts on these tapes?

Hi,

These tapes were recovered by the NASA HQ IG from a basement in Pittsburgh PA. Apparently, they were part of a large collection of NASA items kept by a contractor who hoarded stuff for 40 years+. There are approximately 325 tape reels that were recovered. They are very moldy and many of them have no identifying markings or labels. The reels are 14" in diameter and the magnetic tape is 1/2" in width. The date range, from what I can tell is 1967-1974.

As you can see from this picture, several are identified as JPL tapes. I think that they may have been part of an exchange of data from 1972 between GSFC and JPL. Maybe someone at JPL remembers how tapes were marked. I suspect that these were 'scratch' tapes and not required any more and were excessed.

Any thoughts on this?

Thanks,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

=====

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA/GSFC

Work: 301-614-

Cell: 240-204-

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt, MD 20771

(301) 286-

@nasa.gov

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ADNET SYSTEMS INC]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 2:52 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: Magnetic Tapes Follow-Up

It was standard practice to remove the tape label if the tape was to be "scratched", i.e., if it was to be put into the stack of tapes available for reuse. I would think that any tape without a label is in this category.

I assume that "Hel 1" is a label for the Hellos 1 mission.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Adnet Systems, Inc.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

301-286-

On Tue Apr/5/16 10:50 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to check in and follow-up on the status of the magnetic tapes that the Inspector General found in a basement in Pittsburgh in December. As previously discussed, many of these 325 tapes are not labeled and most are in very poor condition. The ones that are labeled, do not necessarily provide enough information to know whether these are historically significant or not. I need to complete my appraisal for the IG in the next couple weeks so that the IG can wrap up their case file. If we cannot determine what these tapes are, perhaps we can determine what they are not (e.g. Apollo tapes, etc.).

Here is what we know:

1. There have been no leads using the contract numbers that are on some of the tapes and on the computer that was found in the basement alongside the tapes.
2. There are JPL numbers that are on the inner ring of the tape reel on several of the tapes (even tapes that do not have any other identifying information), suggesting that these are not Goddard created tapes? And further the idea that these tapes are a random collection?
3. Some of the content that can be found on the reels includes the following missions (PN 11, Hel 1, and ITOSD Launch).
4. Upon sampling about 2/3 of the tapes, I was unable to find any labels that indicated Apollo content or other content of intrinsic value.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) mentioned believing that these tapes are a random collection. I agree with him. I am willing to go through every tape to make sure that there are no significant content labels or indicators but I obviously cannot identify the content that is on the majority of the tapes which have blank labels. It is my inclination that if the content on these tapes were historically significant, than there would at least be a label indicating the mission. Do you agree with this assessment (assumption)?

The only other way to discover the content on the tapes would be a costly preservation and transfer effort, which we do not have the resources for and may only serve to prove what we already suspect, that no historically significant content is on the tapes.

In terms of the tapes that are labeled with some of the above mentioned missions. I would ask if you know whether we are missing any data or have any gaps in data related to these missions. If there are significant gaps that we know of, we may have a different approach to these labeled tapes. I don't think that this will be the case, but I am relying on your expertise to make that call.

I should add that I keep using "Apollo" as an example of what we would deem historically significant only because of the Apollo tape loss issue a few years ago. These tapes were never suspected of containing Apollo data but could possibly be from around the same time period as some of the labeled tapes are dated 1967-1974.

Please reply all and let me know what you think. I appreciate your help and insight.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Knowledge Resources and Library Services Branch

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

8800 Greenbelt Road

Greenbelt, MD

Office 301.286. [REDACTED]

Mobile 240.357. [REDACTED]

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 3:43 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Looking up an old contract

Hi

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is who I went to as well. She didn't get back to me, perhaps b/c she made the connection with your message. I don't have any other ideas, but I'll ask my boss if he has any thoughts before capitulating.

Happy weekend,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Goddard Space Flight Center

Tel: 301-286-

Cell: 301-356-

Tell us how we're doing at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) - Feedback. We appreciate the opportunity to improve our customer service and your satisfaction.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:38 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Looking up an old contract

Hi

I just wanted to follow up with you and ask if you had any luck looking into those two legacy contract numbers that we discussed the beginning of this year. I tried to look into it on the property/contract end of things as you suggested. They checked their legacy systems and one of the numbers did not match the format while the other number was the contract number for an HVAC system (?!). I am forwarding you the message for your reading pleasure.

Please let me know what you think.

Best Regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
8800 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD
Office 301.286-

Mobile 240.357-
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@nasa.gov

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 4:59 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Looking up an old contract

Interesting. I would be happy to meet, and I'm sure (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) would be, too. He is still around, odd that he didn't come up in the directory. His alias is michael.e.mcgrath.

Holly, I'm in Building , Room , typically in my office. ☺ Or, we can set up a time.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Goddard Space Flight Center
Tel: 301-286-
Cell: 301-356-

Tell us how we're doing at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Feedback. We appreciate the opportunity to improve our customer service and your satisfaction.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 4:16 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: Looking up an old contract

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

It would be great if (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) could stop by to talk to you and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) one day (she is working her way through all of GSFC to figure out what should be in a GSFC archive).

Basically, she is trying to track down what mission(s) this hardware (and tapes) supported and who was responsible for it. It really feels like archaeology to me. She would be interested in the historical acquisition processes that might have led to some of GSFC's biggest discoveries.

If you have time, maybe she could stop by and introduce herself.

Thanks!

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

PS: I couldn't find (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in the directory — is he still around?

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@nasa.gov
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 11:39 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@nasa.gov

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov>

Subject: RE: Looking up an old contract

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C),

I have checked our contract management, and neither of these contract numbers were found. I can ask our systems folks if they have access to other systems that I don't, but I want to make sure I understand your request. This contract itself is likely destroyed by now. What information are you looking for?

AND JACOB

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Tel: 301-286

Cell: 301-356

Tell us how we're doing at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) - Feedback. We appreciate the opportunity to improve our customer service and your satisfaction.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 9:03 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Subject: Looking up an old contract

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

We're wondering if you can help up to find an old contract. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (above) is our new (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) working in (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). She's been tasked with tracking down information on this equipment that the HQ IG has found. As you can see in the photo Image4 there is a contract number NAS5-17620-5. On Image2 there is another contract number NAS5-2164?? It's dated June 29, 1962 and July 5, 1962. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) may have a better picture. They found these tapes and machines in the garage of a home in Pittsburgh, PA, I believe.

Thanks,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 9:27 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc:
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Hi,

I would like to add that award number NAS5-02154, was to replace a HVAC system and I doubt it is related to NAS5-2154.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 9:23 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

What is your objective, here? Obtain a copy of the award documents? I found a spreadsheet of awards made prior to 1979 and neither document number is cited (see attached). The regulations have a timeline for record destruction, to which has passed for the award numbers you referenced.

There are some documents located in the National Archives and are stored by the closeout accession number. There is specific criteria for an award to be identified as "permanent" storage for the archives. Without an associated accession number, as well as, valid award numbers, I have no other way of tracing the information to see if by some chance they met the criteria for permanent storage. Otherwise, the awards were destroyed per the record destruction guidance.

Regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Office: 301-286-

Tell us how we're doing at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) - Feedback. We appreciate the opportunity to improve our customer service and your satisfaction.



From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:41 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (and everyone),

Thanks so much for looking into this for me. I had a couple questions that I wanted to ask regarding your reply. The first is how the Contract Duration for the first contract number is from 2002-2004 when the computer with this contract number inscribed on it is from 1962? Also, I am attaching a photo of the second contract number. Is there any way that there is a different representation of numbers that we could check for a contract that would have been ca. 1971?

Thanks again for all of your work. It really is important to try to figure out the content on these tapes, as it would be expensive and possibly impossible to recover the content directly from the tapes.

Best,

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:18 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: headquarters files

Below is what I found for these contracts:

NAS5-2154 (This one was on a metal plate on the computer and the year on it was 1962)

- Correct format for this contract is NAS5-02154, Specialist was (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Contract Duration was 9/23/2002 to 9/30/2004, 255-10-369 Box 11, Destroy Date 12/1/16

NAS5-17620-5 (This one is the one on many of the magnetic tape reels)

- Can't locate this contract as NAS5-17620, not valid

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Systems Office Support Team
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
301-286-

Procurement Help Line: 301-286-

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

@mail.nasa.gov)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:13 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: headquarters files

Can anyone help? I don't know how these are formatted in SAP (if they are even in there).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(C)

@nasa.gov

301/286-

301/286-

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:09 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Thanks, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I stand corrected!

Contract Property has no access to procurement closeouts; could you possibly look the following old awards and point our NASA Goddard (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in the right direction, please!

NAS5-2154 (This one was on a metal plate on the computer and the year on it was 1962)

NAS5-17620-5 (This one is the one on many of the magnetic tape reels)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Code 273, Bldg. 26, Rm. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Greenbelt, MD. 20771

Phone: (301) 286-
Fax: (301) 286-
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:55 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

NAS5's are GSFC awards. I deal with Headquarters.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

@nasa.gov

301/286

301/286

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:53 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Subject: RE: headquarters files

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) may have asked (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) about the awards (perceived Archived) associated with the attached message from NASA Goddard (b)(6), (b)(7)(C).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) you should contact the Code 210.H Point of Contact highlighted below!
Also copied Procurement Support, Manager who may refer you to someone that can check
The GSFC/HQ Procurement Archive records.

- Point of Contacts

- Closeout Coordinator - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 155 - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210 - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210I - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210I/WFF - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210M - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210P - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210S - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210S - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- 210Y - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- [210H] - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), HQ Outside Procurement Orders.

Regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Code 273, Bldg. 26, Rm. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Greenbelt, MD. 20771

Phone: (301) 286-
Fax: (301) 286-
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:09 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I have not received a call from you and I'm not sure which contract for HQ (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is talking about.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Goddard Space Flight Center
Contract Property Management
Code 273
Tel: (301) 286-
Fax: (301) 286-



From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:40 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: headquarters files

I have been calling you and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) about the 3 hq's files that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) mentioned, I wanted to touch bases with you and check the files in my office to make sure that I have any records that might help.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 10:45 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

It would be good to sit down and look at options.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 10:30 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: headquarters files

Good Morning (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I will get with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to start working on your request. We will get back to you. Thank you.

W/R,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Code 273/Supply and Equipment Management Branch

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @nasa.gov

(O) 301-286-

(F) 301-286-

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Subject: headquarters files

You spoke of several files that you believe may not have been delegated. Would you send over the contract numbers so I can review them also have you and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) pulled a list of the contracts that will expire in the next year or two that do not show delegations. Would be appreciated.

Thanks

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Office of Inspector General
Office of Investigations



O-GO-16-0061-S

February 18, 2016

RECOVERY OF POSSIBLY HISTORICAL 1969 NASA DATA TAPES

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Pittsburgh, PA

CASE CLOSING: This administrative investigation was initiated upon receipt of information from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), NASA-OIG, who advised a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in Pittsburgh, PA contacted her regarding computers with a plate labeled Goddard Space Flight Center (Goddard) NASA Property and reels of magnetic data tape (reel tapes), several labeled 1969, that were found while an acquaintance was cleaning the residence of a deceased person.

Investigation revealed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PA, was authorized to clean the residence of the deceased (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), and discovered approximately 300 reel tapes from Goddard, dating from 1969 to 1972, along with two large computers bearing NASA Goddard markings (from IBM Alleghany Center Pittsburgh, PA) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) moved the reel tapes from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence to his own, but left the computers at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence because they were "very heavy" adding that a crane was likely used to move them. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he wanted to do the right thing and return the NASA property.

On December 7, 2015, the NASA-OIG accompanied (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) residence where photos were taken of the computers with plates labeled Goddard NASA Property. Based on interviews it was determined that sometime between 1968 and 1972 IBM, in lieu of scrapping the computers, gave them to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) upon his request. The OIG, based on the apparent historical significance of the reel tapes requested and received permission from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to transport the reel tapes from his residence to Goddard's (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). A copy of the photos of the computers were also given to the (b)(6), (b)(7)(C).

On February 1, 2016, Goodard's (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised the OIG that the computers in the residence were not needed by NASA. On February 1, 2016, the RA informed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) via text message, NASA did not want and/or need the IBM computers to review the reel tapes, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) acknowledged the message.

As of the writing of this report, the NASA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was in process of determining the content and historical value of the reel tapes. Since no further OIG assistance is required and no criminal, civil, or administrative violations were identified, this matter is closed.

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Prepared by: SA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) GSFC
DISTR: File

APPR:

CLASSIFICATION:

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READY

CLEAR

WRITE
LOCKOUT

BINARY
CODED

UNIT SELECTION

OFF 1 3 4



SELECT
ERROR

2 3 4
LECTION

SELECT
ERROR

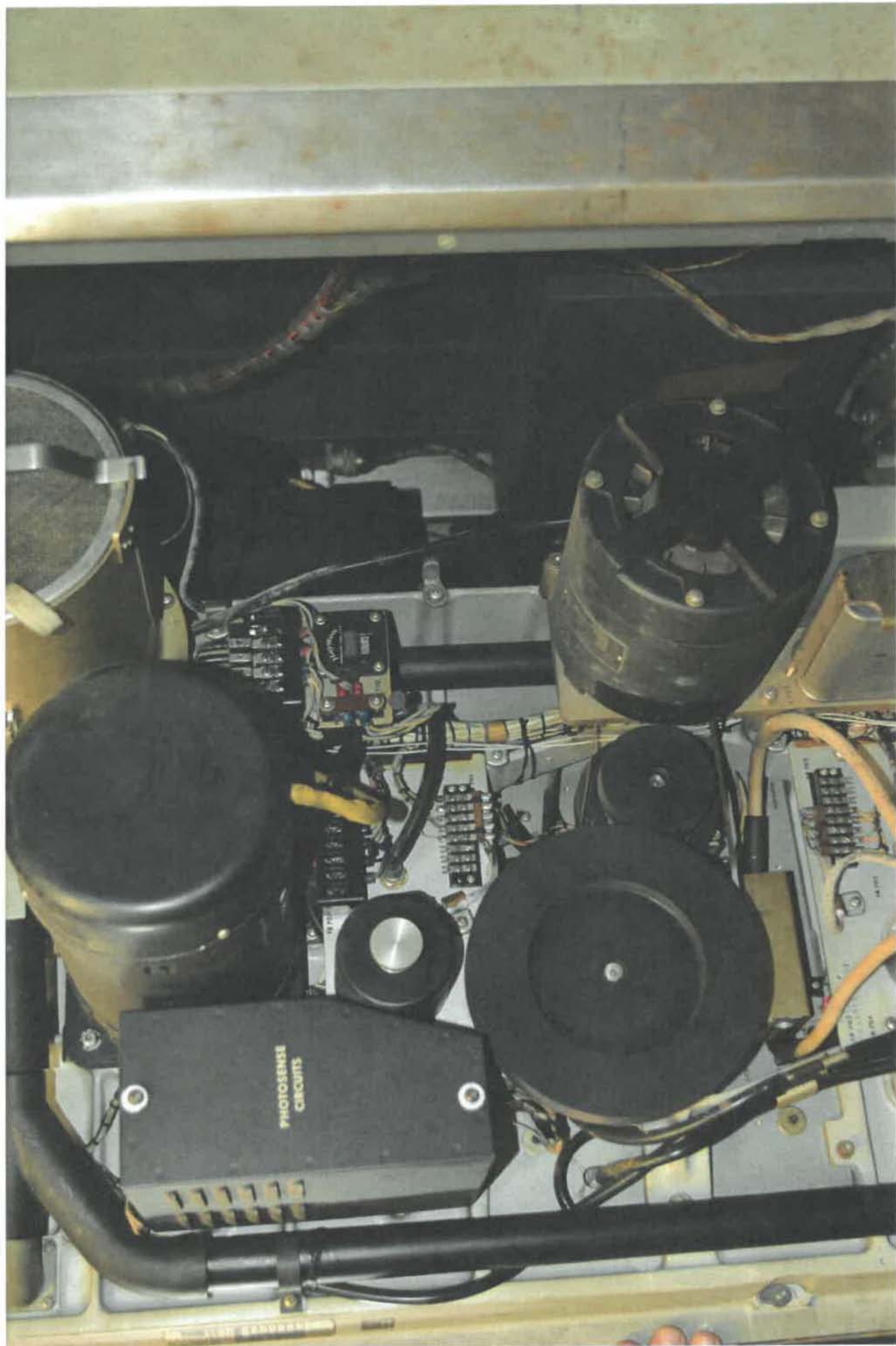
PARITY
ERROR

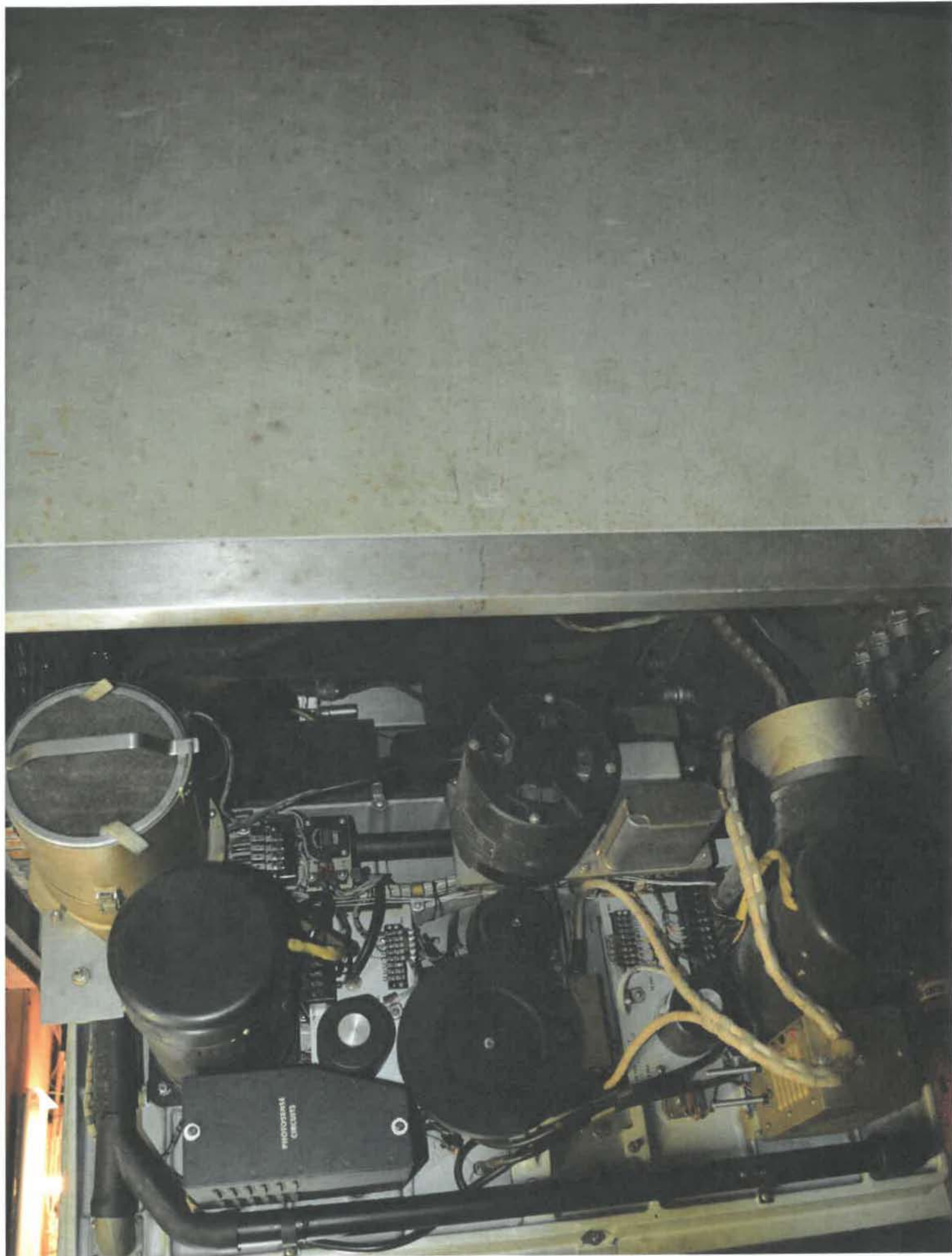
PROGRAM
ERROR

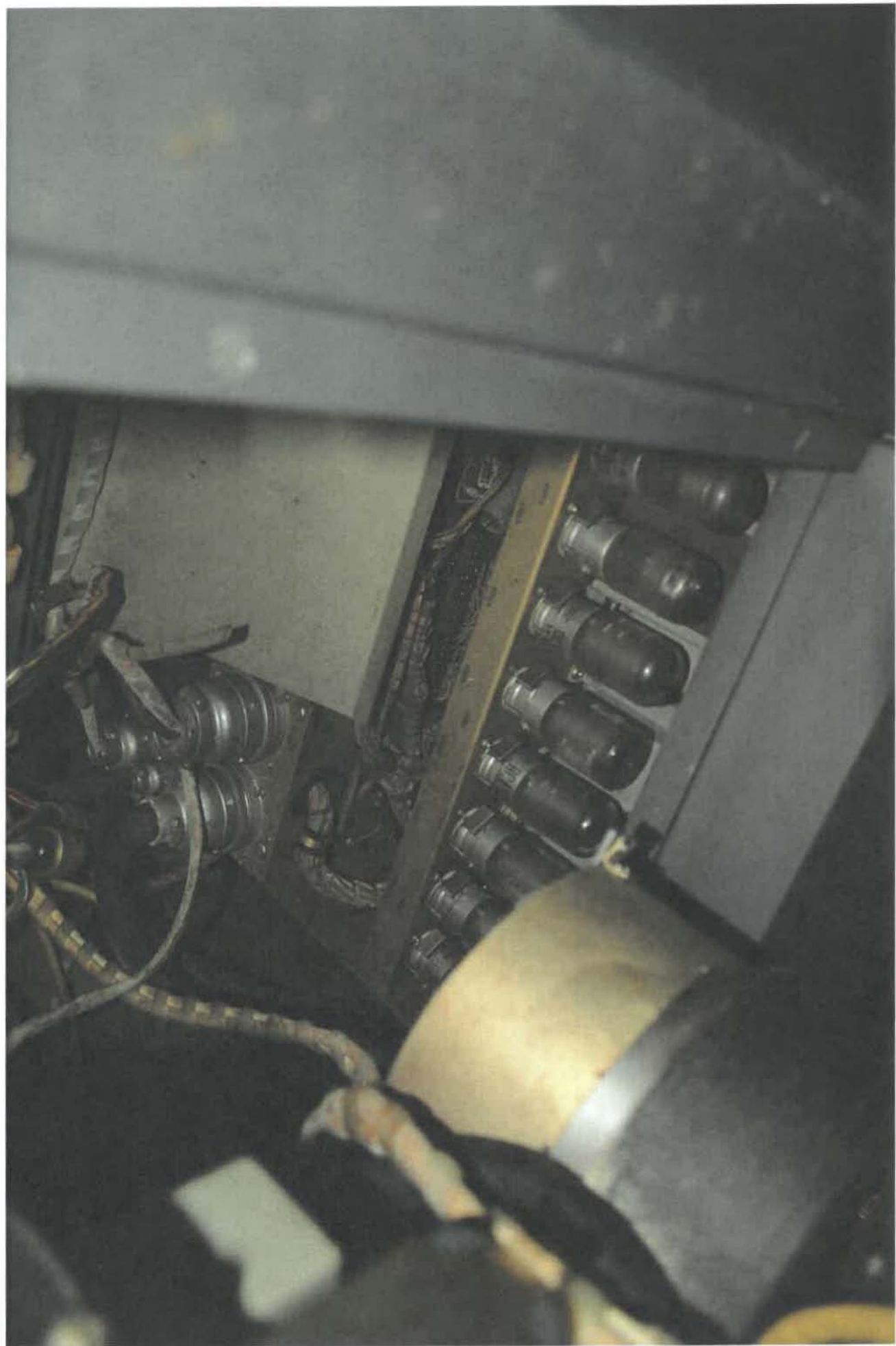
BIAS HI
BIAS LO

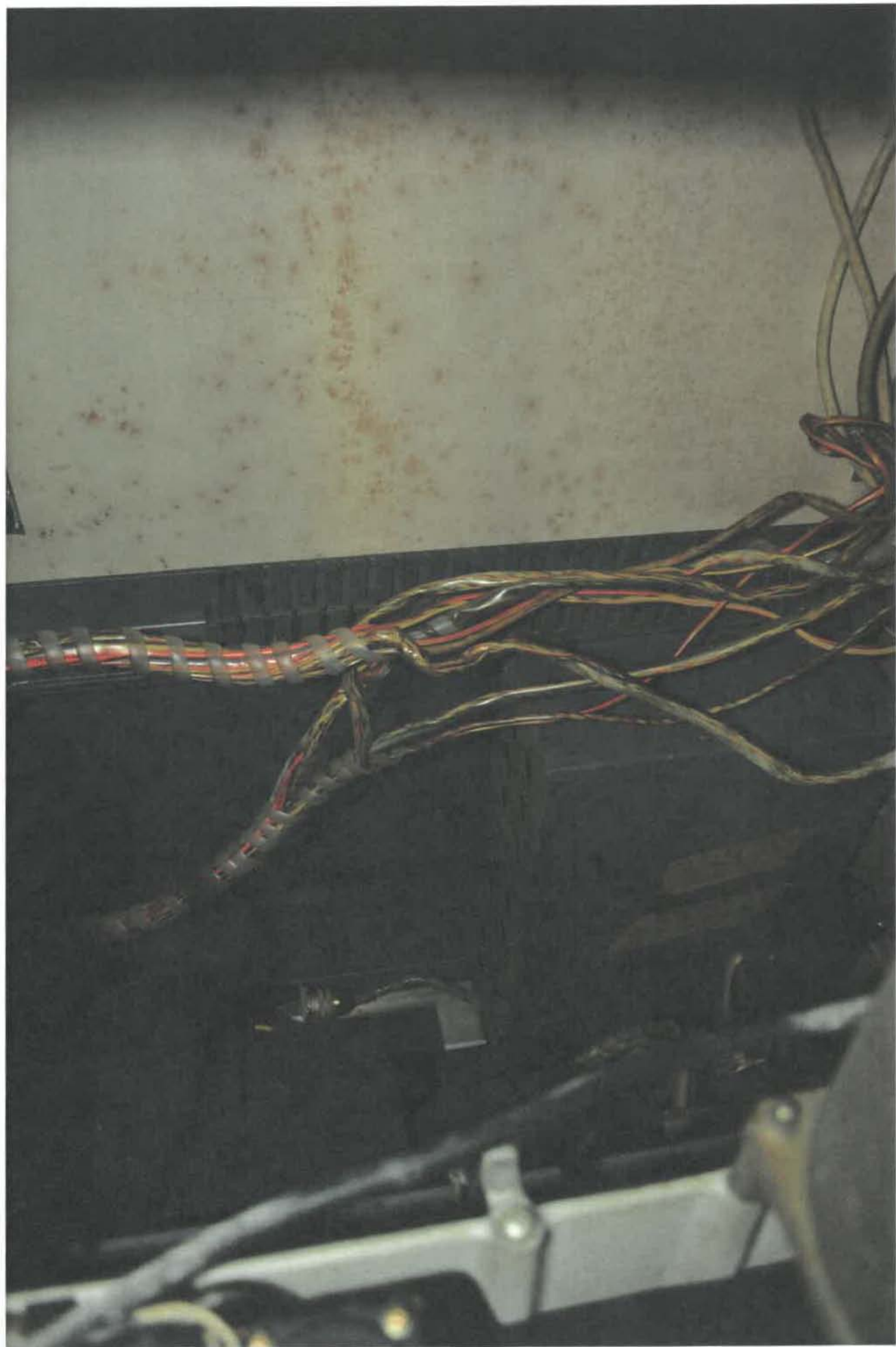
FORWARD







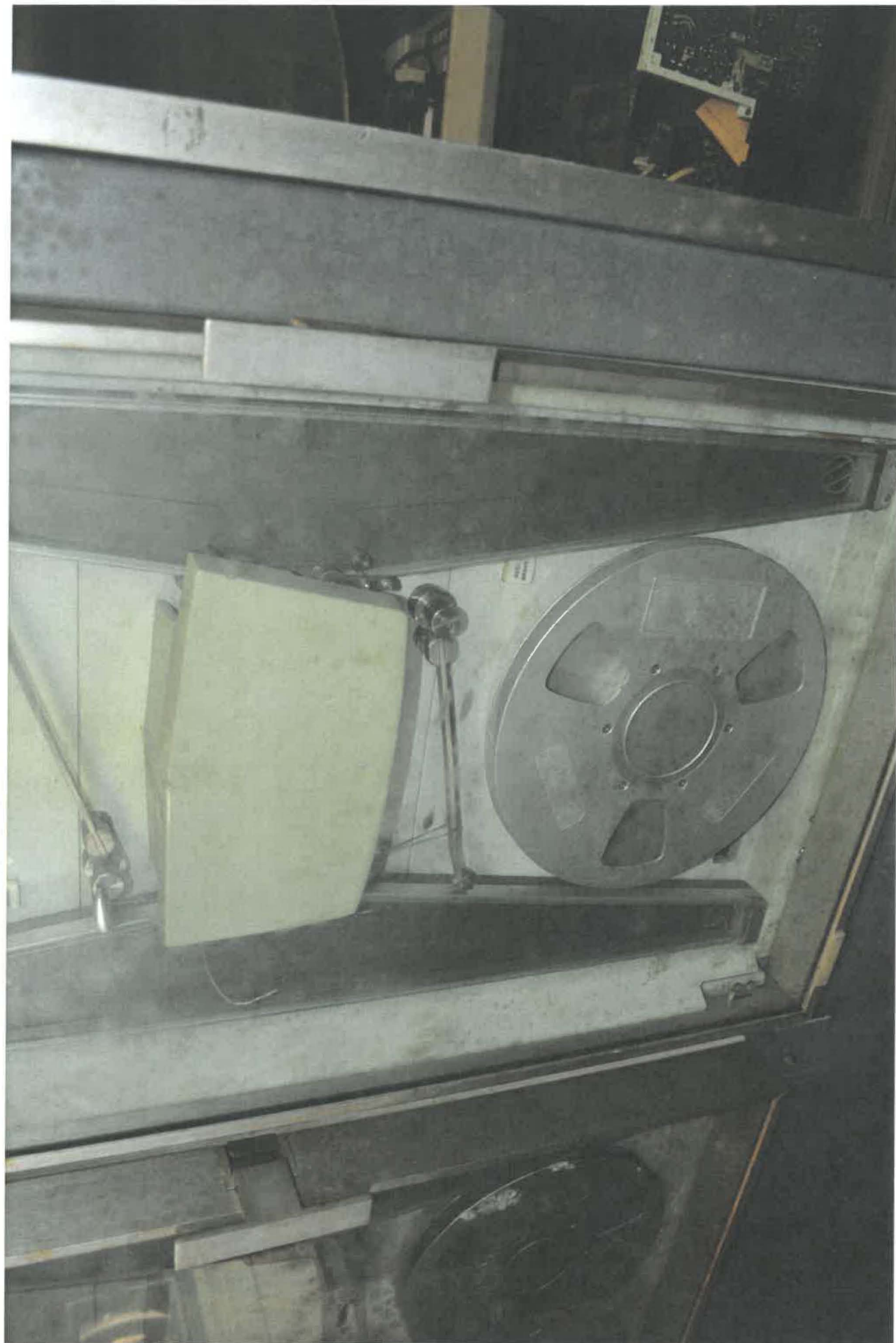












EASY
TENSILE
Tensile Control on Studs and Plates with Dip



416

163

CONTROL DATA

MAGNETIC TAPE SYSTEM

REWIND
UNLOAD

READY

CLEAR

WRITE
LOCKED

DELETE
UNLOCKED

OFF 1 2 3 4
UNIT SELECTION

SELECT
ERROR

CONTROL DATA 163
MAGNETIC TAPE SYSTEM

UNIT SELECTION

OFF 1 2 3 4

SELECT
EMERGENCY

REVERSE
CODES

WRITE
LOCKOUT

CLEAR

PAUSE

STOP

REWIND
UNLOAD



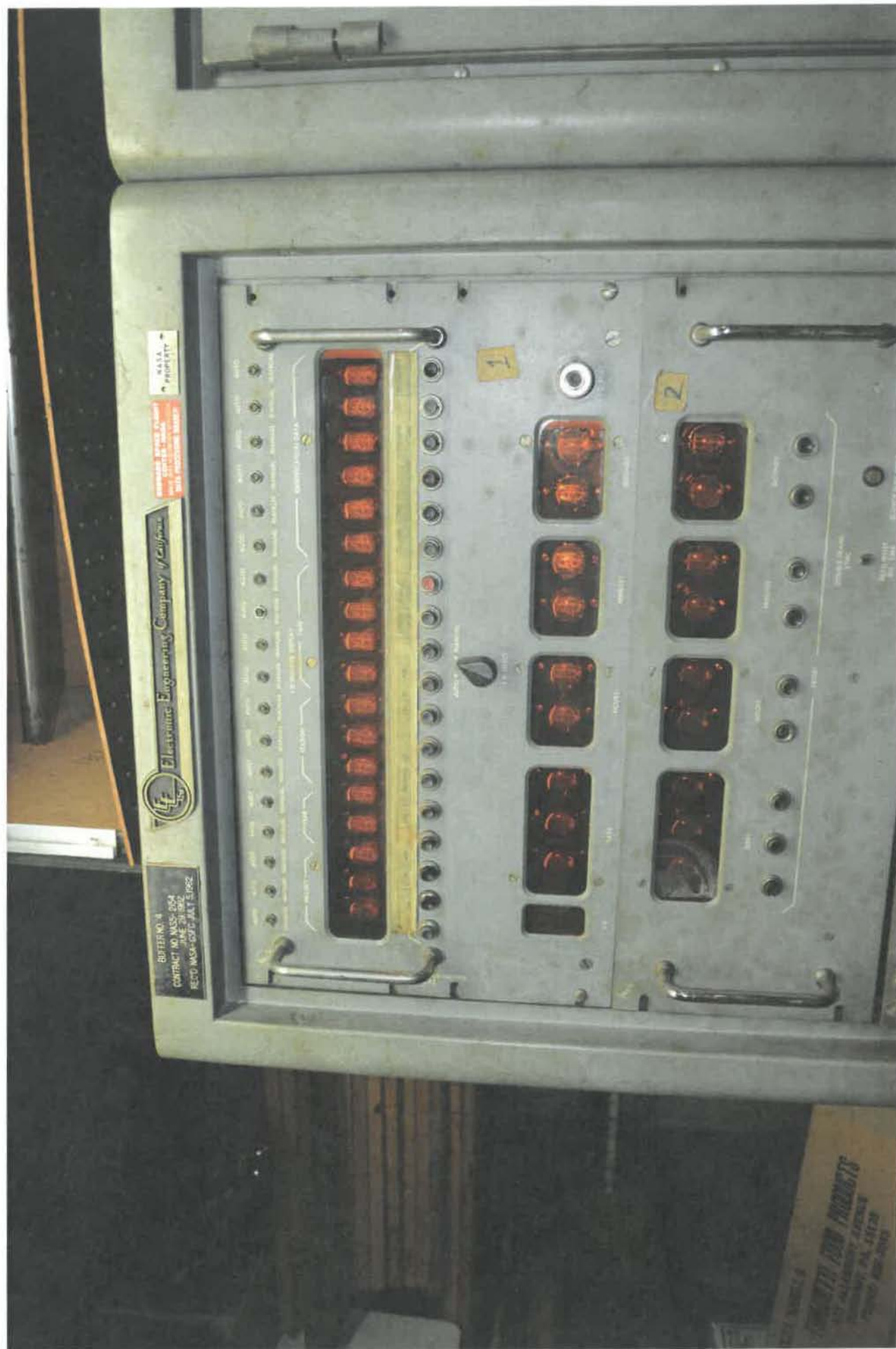


Electronic Engineering Company of California

**GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT
CENTER - NASA**
SPACE DATA ACQUISITION DIVISION
DATA PROCESSING BRANCH

**NASA
PROPERTY**

AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO	AUTO
MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL	MANUAL
I D REGISTER DISPLAY									IDENTIFICATION DATA
TAPE									



**GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT
CENTER - NASA**
SPACE DATA ACQUISITION DIVISION
DATA PROCESSING BRANCH

**NASA
PROPERTY**

lifornia

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

BUFFER NO. 4

CONTRACT NO. NAS5-2154

JUNE 29, 1962

REC'D NASA-GSFC JULY 5, 1962



AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO

AUTO



MANUAL

MANUAL

MANUAL

MANUAL

MANUAL



PROJECT

YEAR







SELECTOR

STOP

FWD.

FAST
FORWARD

REC



OFF OFF

EL 3321

SISTORIZED

SPORT CONTROL
T CO., INC. PLAINVIEW, N.Y.

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT
CENTER - NASA
SPACE DATA ACQUISITION DIVISION
DATA PROCESSING BRANCH



MODEL 3323









