

PROCEEDINGS, AFCRL SCIENTIFIC BALLOON WORKSHOP, 1965

I. Welcome and Introduction to Program

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On behalf of the Aerospace Instrumentation Laboratory, I would like to welcome you to the first AFCRL Scientific Balloon Workshop. It is most pleasing to note that virtually all of the invitees are here today. I trust that your investment of time will be rewarded by interesting presentations and the useful exchange of information.

There have been a number of questions and near-protests on the part of non-invitees concerning the restricted size of the meeting. As your invitation stated, the purpose of the 1965 Workshop is the exchange of information on the recent developments in balloon materials, designs, launching techniques, and flight control. The attendance has, therefore, been limited to those actively working in the aforementioned areas, and you will note that the format of the meeting differs considerably from that of the Scientific Balloon Symposium of past years. The number of formal presentations has been reduced, and the opportunity for informal meetings of small working groups has been greatly increased. Approximately ten subject areas presented during the last Balloon Symposium are being repeated. These talks will bring us to date by describing the advances made during the past 12 months, the current status of the individual efforts, and future plans.

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Next year, probably in the fall, AFCRL will again sponsor a Scientific Balloon Symposium, and will invite to it, in addition to the Workshop members, scientific experimenters using balloons and their sponsors.

Before turning the meeting over to the Chairman, I would like to express our appreciation to the representatives of NCAR, the balloon manufacturers, and the other participating agencies who have contributed most enthusiastically to the Workshop program, and to Dr. Howell of Tufts University who has kindly consented to be Chairman of tomorrow afternoon's panel discussion.