

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FL/Chief, Landing and Recovery Division

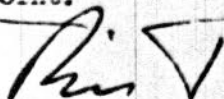
FROM : PA/Chief, Apollo Data Priority Coordination

SUBJECT: Let's move the recovery force a little

DATE: January 7, 1969
69-PA-T-1A

Jerry, I've done a lot of joking about the spacecraft hitting the aircraft carrier, but the more I think about it the less I feel it is a joke. There are reports that the C Prime command module came down right over the aircraft carrier and drifted on its chutes to land 5,000 yards away. This really strikes me as being too close. In other words, I realize the probability of the spacecraft hitting the aircraft carrier is very low but there is absolutely no advantage in having the ship within five or ten miles of the aim point - with the possible exception of the FAO requirements for good commercial TV. It certainly does not improve the recovery operations at all. And, the consequence of the spacecraft hitting the carrier is truly catastrophic.

In summary, I seriously recommend relocating the recovery force at least five or ten miles from the target point.



Howard W. Tindall, Jr.

cc:
PA/G. M. Low
FA/C. C. Kraft, Jr.

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