PLANETARY SURFACE OPERATIONS AND UTILIZATION: HOW ISS AND ARTEMIS MISSIONS CAN BE USED TO MODEL HUMAN EXPLORATION OF MARS

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Stephen J. Hoffman, Ph.D. *The Aerospace Corporation* Michelle A. Rucker *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* Torin McCoy *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

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Introduction

- NASA recently announced it would develop a set of broad objectives to serve as a "blueprint" for exploration across the solar system
- These objectives were divided into four categories:
 - 1. Transportation and habitation,
 - 2. Moon and Mars infrastructure,
 - 3. Operations, and
 - 4. Science
- An element in NASA's process of achieving these objectives is to leverage its assets and missions, such as
 - Crew increments sent to the International Space Station (ISS) and
 - Future Artemis expeditions to be sent to the Moon
- This paper describes one example of how this emerging process is being implemented for NASA's plans for the *first* human mission to the surface of Mars

Notional Human Mars Mission Overview

Short Stay, Date-Agnostic (Events = # years before Boots on Mars)





30-sol Surface Mission Timeline*



This short-stay mission reference timeline was developed to anchor surface operations analysis, in particular to understand how much time would be available for science and exploration after partitioning out anticipated crew and equipment care allocations. Again, this timeline should not be misconstrued as "the plan."

* "Reference Surface Activities for Crewed Mars Mission Systems and Utilization" (HEOMD-415) https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20220000589



EXTENDED MISSIONS ISS to Moon to Mars

- Test long duration spaceflight impacts on crew
- Mature and test human spaceflight systems in the relevant environment over durations representative of those for a Mars mission (platform architecture, logistics, operations)
- Tests risk mitigation strategies
- Collect scientific knowledge for both fundamental discovery and exploration benefit
- Demonstrate strategic/tactical leadership and capabilities for integrating diverse utilization needs across NASA Divisions and external NASA entities to achieve mission objectives and goals

International Space Station



Early Artemis Missions



Extended Artemis Missions



First Human Mission to Mars



Human Systems Risks and Mars Architecture Cycles



Summary

- NASA is currently looking at scenarios for the *first* human Mars mission
 - Any subsequent human Mars mission(s) are assumed to build on these capabilities and operations
- This first mission scenario envisions sending two crew to the surface of Mars for a period of 30 sols – no final decision has been made by NASA for the human Mars mission architecture; this is one option being used for analysis and trade studies
- This paper described how the refinement of this mission will benefit from an emerging process recently announced by NASA
- This process built around a set of "blueprint objectives" – is designed to leverage NASA assets and missions to develop <u>more robust spaceflight</u> <u>systems</u> and build a <u>culture of interplanetary human</u> <u>exploration</u>



Backup

Notional First Human Mars Mission Described in HEOMD-415

TRANSIT HABITAT (TH) AND HYBRID NUCLEAR ELECTRIC PROPULSION (NEP) / CHEMICAL STAGE

- Supports four crew on the long mission to Mars
- Two crew remain in orbit while two crew visit the Mars surface



PRE-DEPLOYED CARGO

- 25-ton class payload Mars lander
- Ascent vehicle propellant, Fission Surface Power, and surface mobility/propellant transfer system

2 PRE-DEPLOYED CREW ASCENT VEHICLE • Partially-fueled

- 3 CREW
 - Two crew land/live in pressurized rover
 - Provides habitation and mobility for 30 days
 - Supports science and exploration operations