T#72

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AIR TO GROUND COMMUNICATIONS T#72
FOR THE MR-4 FLIGHT
(GRISSOM TO SHEPARD)
DATE: JULY 21, 1961

Start Copies 5, 6, & 7

CO: Cap Com this is Liberty Bell 7. How do you read?

CC: Read you loud and clear Bell 7. How me?

CO: You're loud and clear.

CC: Rodger

Stony: OK Stony read both - unintelligable.

CC: Unintelligable.

CO: OK Cap Com I mark at four minutes, 3,2,1, mark four.

CC: Rodger

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CO: Capsule observer

Stony: Blockhouse Communicator.

CC: Capsule Communicator.

CO: OK Cap Com Liberty Bell 7.

CC: OK Bell 7, I read you.

CO: Bell 7

Stony: All right Stony here at five five.

CO: Rodger

Stony: OK Cherry Pickers on the way out at this time.

Stony: Cherry Picker is out.

CO: Rodger

Stony: We are two and counting, mark.

Stony: OK we are on RF.

CO: What's the count Stony?

Stony: OK one fourty-five mark.

CO: One thirty-five?

Stony: Fourty-five.

CO: Rodger

Stony: OK one three zero mark, dam it!

Stony: Check your periscope filters and mag at this time.

CO: Rodger, mag is ..... mag and filters are OK.

Stony: Rodger

CO: And I have the vax on.

Stony: One fifteen mark.

Stony: No sun in your eyes?

CO: No sun in my eyes.

Stony: Real fine.

Stony: OK coming up on one minute, 2,1, mark.

CO: Lock stoper off.

CO: Retros cut off.

Stony: Fifty

Stony: Fourty-five.

Stony: Fourty

Stony: OK have a good trip Dad, we will see you below.

CO: Rodger

CC: Thirty-five

CC: Firing command

CC: Thirty seconds

CC: Retract scope.

CO: OK periscope is in. We have 23 amps.

CC: That's good, now it is twenty.

CC: Fifteen

CC: You pressurized?

CC: Ten

CC: Five

CC: Unintelligable

CC: Egnition, liftoff.

CO: Ahh, Roger. This is Liberty Bell 7. The clock is operating.

CC: Loud and clear. Jose, don't cry too much.

CO: Okee-doke.

CO: OK, it's a nice ride up to now.

CC: Loud and clear.

CO: Roger.

CO: OK, the fuel is go, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ g's, cabin pressure is just coming off the peg, the oxygen is go. We have 26 amps.

CC: Roger, pitch 88, the trajectory is good.

Start of Copy 4

CO: Roger, looks good here.

CO: OK, there, we're starting to pick up a little bit of the noise and vibration - not bad though at all.

CO: OK, the fuel is go, 1½ g's. Cabin is 8, the oxygen is go, 27 amps.

CO: And -

CC: Pitch is .....

CO: 45

CC: Pitch is 77, trajectory is go.

CO: Roger, cabin pressure is still about 6 and dropping slightly- looks like she's going to hold about 5.5.

CO: Eh -

CC: Cabin -

CO: Believe me, Oxygen is go.

CC: Cabin pressure holding 5.5.

CO: Roger, Roger.

CO: Liberty Bell 7, fuel is go, 2½ g's, cabin pressure 5.5, oxygen is go, Main 25, isolated - isolated is 28, we are go.

CC: Roger, pitch is 62, trajectory is good.

CO: Roger, it looks good in here.

CO: Everything is good, cabin pressure is holding, suit pressure is OK. Two minutes and we got 4 g's. Fuel is go, feel the hand controller more just a hair there, cabin pressure is holding, oxygen is go, at 25 amps.

CC: Roger, we have go here.

CO: Mish .....

CC: Standby for cut-off.

CO: There went the tower.

CC: (Unrecognizable communication) Joe ready on the unintelligable

CO: Roger, squibs are off.

CC: Roger.

CO: There went posigrades, capsule has separated - we are at Og and turning around and the sun is really bright.

CC: Roger, Cap. Sep. is green. Turn-around has started, manual handle out.

CO: Manual handle is out, the sky is very, very black, the capsule is coming around into orbit attitude, the roll is a little bit slow.

CC: Roger.

CO: I haven't seen a booster anyplace - OK, rate command is coming on. I'm in orbit attitude. I'm pitching up.

CO: Ahh -

CC: Roger, rate command is coming on, you're trying manual pitch.

CO: I think some place. OK, I got roll back. OK, I'm at 24 in pitch.

CC: Roger, you I.P. is right on Gus, right on.

CO: Yeah, I'm having a little trouble with rate - with the manual control.

CC: Roger.

CO: If I can get her stabilized here, all axes are working all right.

CC: Roger, understand manual control is good.

CO: Roger, it's, it's sort of sluggish, more than I expected.

CO: OK, I'm yawing.

CC: Roger, yaw -

CO: Ahh

CO: OK, coming back in yaw. I'm a little bit late there.

CC: Roger, reading you loud and clear, Gus.

CO: Lot of stuff floating around up here. OK, I'm going to skip the yaw here or roll because I'm a little bit late and I'm going to try this rough yaw maneuver. About all I can really see is clouds. I haven't seen any land anyplace, yet.

CC: Roger, you're on the window. Are you trying a yaw maneuver?

CO: I'm trying the yaw maneuver and I'm on the window. It's such a fascinating view out the window. You just can't help but look out that way.

CC: I understand.

CO: You see -

CC: 4+30, Gus.

? 4+30. He's looking out the window. A-OK.

CO: I can see the Coast, but I can't identify anything.

CC: Roger, 4+40, Gus.

CO: OK, let me get back here to retroattitude. Retrosequence has started.

CC: Roger, retrosequence has started. Go to retroattitude.

CO: Right, will see if I'm in bad, not in very good shape here.

CC: Got 15 seconds, plenty of time. I'll give you a mark at 5:10.

CO: OK, retroattitude is still green.

CC: Fire retros on my mark MCC (He's in limits.) 3,2,1, mark.

CO: There's one f.....

CC: Retro one.

CC: Roger, retro one.

CO: - No boost.

CO: There went 3.

CC: Roger, 3. All retros are fired.

CO: Roger, Roger. OK, yeah, three fired out right there.

CC: Roger, Retrojettison armed.

CO: Retrojettison is armed. Going to rate command.

CC: Roger. Understand, manual fuel handle is in.

CO: Manual fuel handle is in. Mark. Going to HF.

CC: Roger, HF.

CC: Liberty Bell 7, this is Cap Com on HF. 1,2,3,4,5. How do you read, 7?

CO: I got you.

CC: This is Cap Com on HF. 1,2,3,4,5. How do you read, 7?

CO: Roger, I am on UHF high, do you read me?

CC: Roger, reading you loud and clear UHF high. Can you confirm retrojettison?

CO: Tracting, back to reentry attitude.

CC: Roger, retros have jettisoned. Scope has retracted. You're going to reentry attitude.

CO: Affirmative

CC: Bell 7 from Cap Com. Your I.P. is right on.

CO: Roger, I'm in reentry attitude. Ahh -

CC: Roger, how does it look out the window now?

CO: Ahh, the sun is coming in and so, all I can see really is just ah - darkness.

CC: Roger, you have some more time to look if you like.

CC: 7 from Cap Com, how are you feeling up there?

CO: Feel very good. Auto fuel is 90, manual is 50.

CC: Roger, .05g in ten.

CO: OK, ahh.

CO: OK, everything is very good. Ahh, I got .05g and roll rate has started.

CC: Roger.

CO: Got a pitch rate in here. OK, g's are starting to build.

CC: Roger, reading you loud and clear.

CO: Roger, g's are building. We're up to 6.

CO: There's 9.

CO: There's about 10. The handle is a out from under it. I got a little pitch rate coming back down through seven.

CC: Roger, still sound good.

CO: OK, the altimeter is active at 65.

CC: Roger, 65 thousand.

CO: OK, I'm getting some contrasts, evidently shock wave - 50,000 feet. I'm feeling good, I'm very good.

CC: Roger, 50,000.

CO: - 45,000. Do you still read?

CC: Affirmative, still reading you, you sound good.

CO: Cape, do you read?

CC: Bell 7, this Cape Com, how (cut out)

CO: - a drogue chute, periscope has extended.

CC: This is Bell 7, we have a green drogue here, seven. How do you read?

CO: We're on emergency flow rate, can see out the periscope OK. The drogue chute is good.

CC: Roger, understand drogue is good. The periscope is out.

CO: ..... thousand feet.

CC: Roger.

CO: There goes the main chute is reefed - main chute is good, main chute is good. Rate of descent coming down, coming down to 14,000. Ahh, it's better than it was, Chuck.

CO: Main chute is good, landing bag is on green.

CC: And the landing bag is on green.

CO: Ahh, Roger, is anyone reading Liberty Bell 7? Over.

Card 23: Roger, Liberty Bell 7, reading you loud and clear. This is Card File 23. Over.

CO: Atlantic Ship Cap Com, this is Liberty Bell 7. How do you read me? Over.

ATS: Reading you loud and clear, loud and clear. Over.

ATS: Liberty Bell 7. This is Atlantic Ship Cap Com. How do you read me? Over.

CO: Atlantic Ship Cap Com, this is Liberty Bell 7, I read you loud and clear. How me? Over.

ATS: Roger, Bell 7. Read you loud and clear ..... Over.

CO: Ahh, Roger, I'm confirming the fuel has dumped. Over.

ATS: Roger, confirm, you confirm. You read your auto fuel dumped. Over.

CO: Auto fuel and manual fuel have dumped.

ATS: Roger, Roger.

CO: And I'm in the process of putting the pins back in the door at this time.

CO: OK, I'm passing down through six thousand feet. Everything is good, ahh.

CO: I'm going to open my face plate.

CO: Hello, I can't get one. I can't get one door pin back in. In fact, I can't get it back in.

CO: And I think that ATS I'm passing through five thousand feet and I don't think I have one of the door pins in.

ATS: Ahh, Roger, Bell 7. Roger.

CO: Do you have any word from the recovery troops?

Card 23: Liberty Bell 7, this is Card File 23. We have a - check on you.

CO: ATS, this is Cap - this is Liberty Bell 7. Do you have any word from the recovery troops?

ATS: Negative. Bell 7, negative. Do you have any transmission to MCC? Over.

CO: Ahh, Roger, you might, ah, make a note htat there is one small hole in my chute, ah, it looks like its about, ah six inches by six inches, it is fairly accurate pertaining to a rip, I guess.

ATS: Ahh, Roger, Roger.

CO: I'm passing through three thousand feet and all the fuses are in flight condition, ah, ASCS is normal, auto is on rate command, gyros are normal, ah, auto retro jettison is armed, squib is armed are off, four fuel handles are in, decompress and recompress are in, retro delay is normal, retro

CO: A is off, cabin lights are both, TM is on, rescue aids is auto, landing bag is auto, retract scope is auto, retro attitude is auto, all the three, five pull rings are in, going down through some clouds to two thousand feet. ATS, I'm at two thousand feet, everything is normal.

ATS: Roger, Bell 7, what ..... Over.

CO: The rate if descent is varying between 28 and 30 feet per second.

ATS: Ah, Roger, Roger, and what could you verify -

CO: Ah, helicopters sighted here at ah bearing 020, over.

CO: OK, my max g was about 10.2, altimeters are 1,000 cabin pressure is coming toward 50. Temperature is ..... 22, GM launch is 30. Temperature is 68, pressure is 14, main oxygen is 60, normal is, main is 60, emergency is 100, suit fan is normal, cabin fan is normal, we have 21 amps, getting ready for impact here. You can see the water coming right on up.

ATS: Liberty Bell 7, Liberty Bell 7, this is Atlantic cap com, do you read me? Over.

CO: OK, does anyone read Liberty Bell 7? Over.

Huntclub 1: Liberty Bell 7, Huntclub is now 3 miles ..... south west your position.

9 Card File: 7 this is 9 Card File, we have your entry into the water, will be over you in about 30 seconds. Over.

CO: Roger, my condition is good, ah the capsule is floating I have actuated the rescue aids, the reserve chute has jettisoned, in fact I can see it in the water, I think, can see something out in the water ..... up.

Unknown: Huntclub did you copy?

Card File 9: OK, Huntclub, this is Card File 9, don't forget the antenna.

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub .....

CO: Huntclub this is Liberty Bell 7, my antenna should be up.

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub 1, that's OK, your antenna is erected.

CO: Ah, Roger ..... OK give me how much longer it will be before you get here.

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub 1, we are in orbit at this time, around the capsule.

CO: Roger, give me about another 5 minutes here to mark these switch positions here before I ah, ah ..... give you a call to come in and hook on. Are you ready to come in and hook on any time?

Huntclub 1: Huntclub 1, Roger, we are ready anytime you are.

CO: OK, give me about another 3 to 4 minutes here to change these switch positions, then I will be ready for you.

Huntclub 1: Huntclub 1, will do.

Card File 9: Hey Huntclub this is Card File.

Huntclub 1: Card File 9, I am standing by to escort you back as soon as you lift down on the tip of the aircraft at a range of 2,000 feet.

Huntclub 1: Bell 7, this is Huntclub 1.

CO: Go ahead 7, Huntclub 1.

Huntclub: Roger, this is one. The fear of covering, of interfering in any order, would we be interfering with any telemetry if we come down and take a look at it?

CO: Negative, not at all. I am going to direct this stuff on tape.

CO: And then I will be ready for you in just about 2 more minutes I would say.

Huntclub 1: Bell one, Roger.

CC: Liberty Bell 7 Cap Com at the Cape on a test call, over.

End of Copy #4

CC: Liberty Bell 7 Cap Com at the Cape on a test count, over.

Card File 9: Any Huntclub this is 9 Card.

Huntclub 1: Unintelligable Huntclub say again.

Card File 9: This is Card File 9. There is an object on the line in the water about one six zero degrees. The NASA people suspect it is the die marker that did not disapate. I would say it is about 3/4 of a mile out from the capsule. After the lift off, do you think to check on it? Over.

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub, not at this time, do you copy? Over.

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub, did you say 3/4 of a mile?

Card File 9: This is 9 Card, that is affirmative.

Huntclub 1: Card 9, Huntclub 1, that's affirmative.

CO: Huntclub 1 this is Liberty .....

CO: This is Liberty Bell 7, are you ready for pickup?

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub, this is affirmative.

CO: OK, latch on then give me a call and I will power down and blow the hatch, OK?

Huntclub 1: This is Huntclub 1, Roger, will give you a call when we are ready for you to blow.

CO: Roger, Huntclub 1 on channel one now, over.

Huntclub 1: One Roger.

CO: You tell me to ah you are ready for me to blow and I will have to take my helmet off, power down and then blow the hatch.

Huntclub 1: One Roger ..... and when you blow the hatch the collar will already be down there waiting for you. Do you any more to say at this time?

CO: Roger.

End of Copies 1,2, &3 and Master Reel 1 of 2

Start of reel 2 of 2

Double Foxtrot 1:Card File 24 this is Cape Cap Com. Over.

Double Foxtrot 1:Card File 24 this is Double Foxtrot 1 on channel 3, over.

Double Foxtrot 1:Card File 24, Double Foxtrot 1 on net 3, over.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1 this is Card File 24. Relay is out at this time. I read you.

Double Foxtrot 1:Roger, could you confirm astronaut pickup at this time? Over.

Card File 24: I did not hear them positivily say that he had been pickedup. Negative.

Double Foxtrot 1:I see, can you give me your last transmission from the helicopter? Over.

Card File 24: The last transmission I heared from the helicopter, they were talking about blowing the hatch.

Double Foxtrot 1:I understand, your last transmission from the helicopter was they were picking him up and he was blowing the hatch. Is that correct?

Card File 24: They said he was blowing the hatch. They were prepairing to blow the hatch. It did not say, they were picking him up.

Double Foxtrot 1:Roger, and you have received nothing further since then is that correct?

Card File 24: That is correct. Nothing further since that transmission.

Double Foxtrot 1: Roger, would you please standby and relay anything you hear?

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1, Card File 24. Say again your last transmission.

Double Foxtrot 1: This is trot 1, would you please standby and relay manually anything you hear from the copter or the capsule?

Card File 24: All right Sir, will do.

Double Foxtrot 1: Card File 24, Double Foxtrot 1 over.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrout 1, this is Card File 24. over.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1 this is Card File 24, over.

Double Foxtrot 1: Roger, 24, we have received word that the astronaut is in the helicopter. We need no further relay at this time.

Card File 24: Roger, thank you, Card File 24 out.

Double Foxtrot 1: Have fun, thank you, out.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1, Card File 24. This is ahh .... there any information on the quality of the relay?

Double Foxtrot 1: This is trot 1, affirmative. The quality of the relay was fair up until about 10,000 feet. After that the quality was intermittant on the relay through PBR.

Card File 24: Roger, if anybody tried to get back the other way through channel one to him on this, there was a steady flow here on channel one at all times.

Double Foxtrot 1: That is correct. That is normal unless the knowledge to this to switch otherwise.

Card File 24: Roger, understand.

Double Foxtrot 1: Trot one out.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1, Double Foxtrot 1, Card File 24 on channel 3.

Card File 24: Double Foxtrot 1, Double Foxtrot 1, Card File 24 on channel 3.

Double Fox 1: Card File 24, Com Tech. standby.

Card File 24: Standing by.

Double Fox 1: Card File 24 this is Double Fox 1, Cap Com has droped off the net, can I reply a message? Over.

Card File 24: This is Card File 24, Double Fox 1. I would if we are released from the post at this time?

Double Fox 1: Card File 24, Double Fox 1 that is affirmative. Cap Com informed you that no further relays would be needed, over.

Card File 24: Ah, Roger, understand we are released at this time?

Double Fox 1: 24, Double Fox 1 that is affirmative.

End of Reel 2 of Copies 1,2, &3 and Master also End of Copies 5,6, &7.