



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) Color Snapshots

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) Color Snapshots
Identifier:	NASM.2009.0044
Date:	(bulk 1969)
Extent:	0.05 cubic feet ((1 folder))
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mindy D'Alessandro, Gift, 2009

Preferred Citation

Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) Color Snapshots, Accession 2009-0044, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

This Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) was one of four built by NASA for astronauts returning from the Moon. Its purpose was to prevent the unlikely spread of lunar contagions by isolating the astronauts from contact with other people. A converted Airstream trailer, the MQF contained living and sleeping quarters, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Quarantine was assured by keeping the air pressure inside lower than the pressure outside and by filtering the air vented from the facility.

Biographical / Historical

This MQF was used by Apollo 11 astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins immediately after their return to Earth. They, together with a physician and a technician, remained in it for 88 hours while the MQF was

transported on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet to the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii, and from there to nearby Hickam AFB. At Hickam, the MQF was loaded into the cargo hold of a C-141 aircraft and flown to Ellington AFB in Houston, Texas. The MQF, with the astronauts still on board was then transported to the NASA Lunar Receiving Laboratory at Johnson Space Center where there were more spacious quarantine facilities. The astronauts were allowed to emerge from quarantine once scientists were sure they were not infected with "moon germs."

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of two color snapshots of the Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) being transported from Pearl Harbor to Hickam Air Force Base. One of the photographs shows the astronauts looking through the MQF window and the other shows the MQF being transported with three girls running behind.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:

- Astronautics
- Astronauts
- Manned space flight
- Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF)

Types of Materials:

- Color photographs