

LANGLEY TO OPEN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER JUNE 7

Langley Research Center will open a Visitor Information Center to the general public on June 7, Center Director Edgar M. Cortright announced this week.

Designed to expand Langley's program of education services and community support, the Visitor Center will provide a stimulating introduction to the future of aeronautics and space flight and an understanding of the scientific beginning from which present activities have grown.

Exhibit items will range from a panoramic display of scale model aircraft from the Wright Brothers' first airplane which flew at Kitty Hawk in 1903 to the latest airliners and supersonic military aircraft.

Spacecraft models will range from the early Mercury and Gemini spacecraft through the Apollo command module and Lunar Module to advanced space station concepts of the future.

One striking item will be a full sized engineering model of the Viking spacecraft which NASA plans to land on the planet Mars in 1976. Langley manages the Viking project for NASA, and an explanation of the Viking mission will be included in the display.

"A lunar sample returned by one of the Apollo missions is being transferred to Langley and will constitute one of the principal exhibit items in the Visitor Center," Cortright said. "We hope that it and the other unusual items we plan to display will form an educational experience of genuine value for young people in our community and region."