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AFRPL-TR-66-140

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**(U) PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS
OF A CRYOGENIC TRIPROPELLANT
SYSTEM**

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**TECHNICAL DOCUMENTARY REPORT
NO. AFRPL-TR-66-140**

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT NO. 5

MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1966

**Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory
Research and Technology Division
Air Force Systems Command
United States Air Force
Edwards, California**

Project No. 3058, Program Structure No. 750G

Prepared Under Contract No. AF 04(611)-10535

United Aircraft Research Laboratories

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UNITED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION**

A

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

**C.R. MILLER
D.J. McFARLIN
T.J. SADOWSKI**

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AFRPL-TR-66-140

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EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

GROUP 4

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**C.R. MILLER
D.J. McFARLIN
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FOREWORD

An exploratory development program directed toward determination of the performance characteristics of the Be-O₂-H₂ propellant combination in tribrid rocket motors having thrust levels up to 1000 lb is being conducted by the United Aircraft Research Laboratories. This program was initiated on March 1, 1965, and the work accomplished and the results obtained during the period March 1 through May 31, 1966, are described herein.

Included among those who cooperated in the research and preparation of this report were: Mr. J. R. Keilbach (Program Manager), Supervisor, Rocket Technology Group; and Messrs C. R. Miller, D. J. McFarlin, and T. Sadowski of the Research Laboratories' staff.

This program is sponsored by the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory, Research and Technology Division, Air Force Systems Command, United States Air Force, Edwards Air Force Base, California. The Contracting Officer is Mrs. Mary M. Racovich/FTMKR-4, and the Project Officer is W. E. Spangler, Lt., USAF/RPRE. The Air Force Program Structure Number is 750G and the AFSC Project Number is 3058.

This document is the Contractor's Report Number E910331-20 and, with the exception of the title, is classified Confidential because it reveals (1) the Air Force interest in beryllium as a propellant and (2) the thrust levels, design configurations, and exhaust characteristics of the tripropellant thrust chambers under consideration.

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CONFIDENTIAL**ABSTRACT**

(This Abstract is classified Confidential.)

The United Aircraft Research Laboratories under contract with the United States Air Force are conducting an investigation to determine the performance characteristics of the Be-O₂-H₂ propellant combination in tribrid thrust chambers having thrust levels up to 1000 lb. This report summarizes the work performed during the period March 1, 1966, to May 31, 1966.

During this report period Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the contract was executed. This document revises the contract reporting requirements, updates the Security Requirements Check List (DD Form 254) and reduces the scope of the research program. The modifications generally affecting the scope of the program include termination of theoretical studies of the expansion process of two-phase exhaust streams, deletion of thrust chamber tests at the 100 psia chamber pressure level, and reduction in the minimum number of thrust chamber firings. These contract modifications will permit use of the remaining contract funds solely for acquisition of data on beryllium-grain tribrid motor performance.

Testing of the beryllium-grain tribrid thrust chambers continued during this report period. Three test firings of beryllium-grain motors were conducted, and the results indicate that the major technical difficulties associated with grain regression rate measurement, exhaust nozzle throat and chamber wall erosion and flame mixer durability have been eliminated.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	Area, in. ²
C _F	Thrust coefficient, dimensionless
c*	Characteristic exhaust velocity, ft/sec
D	Grain port diameter, in.
F	Thrust, lb
I _{SP}	Specific impulse, sec
L	Length, in.
P	Pressure, lb/in. ²
r	Grain regression rate, in/sec
t	Time, sec
w	Weight flow rate, lb/sec
ΔW _{gr}	Total propellant grain weight loss during motor firing, lb
η _{c*}	Characteristic exhaust velocity efficiency, dimensionless
η _{C_F}	Thrust coefficient efficiency, dimensionless
η _{I_{SP}}	Specific impulse efficiency, dimensionless
ρ	Density, lb/in. ³

Subscripts

b	Burning
c	Chamber condition
f	Final condition
gr	Grain
H ₂	Hydrogen

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- o Initial condition
- O₂ Oxygen
- P Propellants
- † Throat condition

Superscripts

- Time-average value

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INTRODUCTION

The United Aircraft Research Laboratories are conducting an exploratory development program under Air Force Contract AF 04(611)-10535 in an attempt to determine the delivered performance capabilities of the beryllium-oxygen-hydrogen propellant combination in rocket motors having thrust levels up to 1000 lb. The technique by which the introduction of metal into tripropellant thrust chambers is to be accomplished during this program is based on the tribrid concept, in which beryllium particles are injected into a hydrogen-oxygen reaction zone through pyrolysis of a highly-metallized solid fuel grain.

The program is divided into two tasks. Task I includes (1) laboratory investigations to determine the effects of tripropellant grain formulation and processing variables on the maximum attainable grain metal loading, with 95 wt % beryllium as the current goal and (2) fabrication of tribrid propellant grains for use in rocket motor firings to be conducted under Task II of the program.

Task II comprises (1) analytical studies of the manner and extent to which combustion chamber stoichiometry, exhaust stream particle size, and exhaust nozzle size and geometry affect the delivered performance of Be-O₂-H₂ rocket thrust chambers and (2) experimental evaluations of the ignition, combustion, and expansion characteristics; hardware durability; and delivered performance of tribrid Be-O₂-H₂ rocket motors designed for thrust levels up to 1000 lb.

Contract modifications were made during this report period as set forth in Supplemental Agreement No. 2, which revises the reporting requirements, updates the Security Requirements Check List (DD Form 254) and reduces the scope of the research program. Indications of manner in which these modifications affect the program scope are presented herein together with discussions of the work accomplished and the results obtained during the period March 1 through May 31, 1966.

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SECTION 1

GRAIN FORMULATION AND PROCESSING STUDIES

The grain formulation and processing studies are completed, as discussed in Ref. 1. Further, the reduction in the scope of the experimental program resulting from contract modifications is such that the present inventory of beryllium grains is sufficient for the planned program of thrust chamber firings. Therefore, all grain fabrication activities have been terminated, and this phase of the research program is considered to be completed. Ten aluminum grains (95 wt % Al-5 wt % Kel F-800) and nineteen beryllium grains (90 wt % Be-10 wt % Kel F-800) were fabricated.

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SECTION 2

ANALYTICAL STUDIES OF TWO-PHASE EXHAUST FLOWS

The objectives of the analytical phase of this program are (1) to determine the effects of pertinent thrust chamber design and operating variables on the delivered performance of the Be-O₂-H₂ propellant system in tribrid rocket motors and (2) to provide a basis for determination of the source of thrust chamber performance deficiencies observed experimentally during this program. Studies related to the first of these objectives have been terminated according to Supplemental Agreement No. 2 in order that the remaining contract funds can be expended in acquisition of experimental data on the performance characteristics of beryllium-grain tribrid thrust chambers. Nonetheless, prior to the termination of these studies a number of flow calculations were carried out to show the effects of propellant mixture ratio and engine thrust level on delivered specific impulse (see Ref. 1). The results of the abbreviated parametric study indicate that the optimum performance mixture ratio does not necessarily coincide with that predicted on the basis of thermochemical considerations alone when two-phase flow effects are taken into account; the optimum mixture ratio shifts to higher values of percentage hydrogen for the two-phase flows. However, as the engine thrust level increases both the delivered performance and the optimum performance mixture ratio approach the values obtained from thermochemical calculations in which two-phase flow is not considered.

The second objective of this phase of the program is to be accomplished through analyses of thrust chamber performance using values of thrust chamber design and operating variables, including exhaust product particle sizes, derived as results of the rocket motor test firings of this program. Thus work toward this objective will be initiated in the next report period, during which the required experimental data are expected to be available.

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SECTION 3

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES OF THRUST CHAMBER PERFORMANCE

A program of rocket test firing is being conducted to evaluate the performance of the Be-O₂-H₂ tripropellant system. This experimental program is directed toward achieving high delivered specific impulse with Be-O₂-H₂ propellants in thrust chambers using the tribrid mode of injection. It includes the following:

1. Preliminary test firings of H₂-O₂ thrust chambers to evaluate primary injector performance and to determine the minimum pregrain mixing lengths required for the attainment of high pregrain c* efficiencies in tribrid rocket motors.
2. Supplementary firings of Al-O₂-H₂ tribrid rocket motors to evaluate post-grain mixer and secondary hydrogen injector configurations and grain regression rate measurement and particle sampling techniques.
3. Test firings of Be-O₂-H₂ tribrid rocket motors at various thrust levels and at a nominal chamber pressure level of 500 psia under sea level exhaust conditions in an attempt to determine the range of thrust chamber operating variables over which stable combustion and high delivered propellant performance can be obtained.

Both the preliminary and supplementary series of thrust chamber firings are completed (see Refs. 2 and 3), and the series of Be-O₂-H₂ tribrid motor firings is in progress.

Test Apparatus

The experimental thrust chamber performance tests are being conducted at the UARL Rocket Test Facility shown in Fig. 1. The facility includes fuel and oxidizer pressurization and supply systems, atmospheric-exhaust thrust stands, and an enclosed thrust stand with an associated exhaust gas scrubbing-filtering system. The control building houses data recording and electrical control systems.

Thrust Chamber Configurations

The general thrust chamber configuration currently employed in the beryllium-grain tribrid motor tests is shown in Fig. 2. The basic motor is composed of a six-concentric-element, water-cooled primary injector, a pregrain combustion chamber, a grain section, a postgrain flame mixer, a constant-area mixing section, a convergent section, a secondary hydrogen injector, and an exhaust nozzle. The grain section is designed to receive three propellant grain elements. The flame mixer at the grain exit plane is employed to induce impingement and mixing of the port flow from

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the three grain elements prior to the injection of the secondary hydrogen. (The importance of postgrain mixing and the "quenching" effect of cold hydrogen injection on the Be-H₂O reaction is discussed in Refs. 2 and 4.) The nozzle holder is designed to permit installation of exhaust nozzle inserts of different materials such as graphite, beryllium oxide, and tungsten.

The basic motor design ensures facility of modification or addition of components where indicated by test results. In fact, the thrust chamber configuration shown in Fig. 2 was established largely on the basis of the results of the supplementary aluminum-grain and early beryllium-grain tests. The major modifications to the original configuration (see Ref. 5) are associated with the design of the grain section, the postgrain mixer/mixing section, the particle sampling probe installation, and the grain regression rate probes. These modifications are discussed in detail in the section entitled "Beryllium-Grain Motor Tests."

Exhaust Gas Scrubber-Filtering System

The toxic nature of the exhaust products from beryllium-fueled thrust chambers makes necessary their retention or regulated discharge so that maximum allowable airborne concentrations of beryllium are not exceeded in inhabited areas. Thus beryllium-grain motor tests are conducted using the exhaust gas scrubbing-filtering system shown in Fig. 3. This system is composed of a thrust stand enclosure, an afterburner, a scrubber section, a filter section, and a blower. A view of the thrust stand enclosure and afterburner sections of the system is presented in Fig. 4. Air samplers are used to monitor the test site and downwind areas before, during, and after test firings with beryllium-containing propellants. A plot plan of the monitored area is shown in Fig. 5.

Data Reduction Procedures

Because of uncertainties regarding instantaneous values of solid propellant flow rate, it was necessary to calculate thrust chamber performance solely on the basis of time-averaged values of thrust chamber operating parameters for many of the tribrid motor tests previously reported under this contract. However, attempts to obtain measurements of instantaneous grain regression rates were successful in many of the more recent tests, and performance calculations based on instantaneous values of thrust chamber operating parameters are therefore possible. For purposes of comparison, performance values were determined on the basis of both instantaneous and time-averaged values of the thrust chamber operating parameters where possible.

In the time-averaging method, values of the thrust chamber operating parameters required for performance determinations, with the exception of the solid fuel flow rate, were determined using the procedures described in Ref. 3. The time-averaged solid propellant flow rate was determined by dividing the total propellant grain weight loss by the burning time. Use of this solid fuel flow rate instead of the

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"expanded" solid fuel flow rate, as was done previously (cf. Refs. 1 through 3), is necessary to establish a common basis for comparison between time-average and instantaneous performance values, because there is no fully consistent way of correcting the instantaneous solid propellant flow for the grain residue left in the post-grain sections of the combustion chamber. Performance values obtained in this manner are conservative to an extent dependent on the amount of residue deposited in the combustion chamber during firing.

In calculating the time-average regression rate of the propellant grain surface, it was assumed that the regression rate was invariant with length along the grain, and that the solid propellant flow rate was constant with time. The time-average regression rate was calculated using the following relationship:

$$\bar{r} = \frac{\Delta W_{gr}}{3\rho_{gr} \pi D L_{gr} t_b} \quad (1)$$

where

$$\bar{D} = 2/3 \left[\frac{D_f^3 - D_o^3}{D_f^2 - D_o^2} \right] \quad (2)$$

For the instantaneous performance calculation the instantaneous solid fuel weight flow is given by the relation

$$\frac{dW_{gr}}{dt} = 6\pi\rho_{gr} L_{gr} r_i \frac{dr_i}{dt} \quad (3)$$

where

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \dot{r}_i \quad (4)$$

and

$$\frac{dW_{gr}}{dt} = \dot{W}_{gr} \quad (5)$$

represent, respectively, the length-average instantaneous regression rate and the instantaneous solid propellant weight flow rate. To determine values of the length-average port radius, the values of port radius obtained from regression rate probe measurements were plotted against grain length at several values of time; the areas

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under the curves were determined by integration using a planimeter; and these areas were divided by the grain length. The values of length-average port radius were then plotted against time. The instantaneous value of the regression rate was then determined by measuring the slope of the grain port radius versus time curve.

Although the tribrid thrust chambers were instrumented for measurement of combustion chamber pressure at positions both upstream and downstream of the grain chamber, only the downstream chamber pressure was used in determining delivered performance.

Beryllium-Grain Motor Tests

Three thrust chamber firings (B-4, B-5, and B-6) were conducted during this report period in continuation of the series of beryllium-grain tribrid rocket tests. These test firings and the data reduced to date are discussed in the following paragraphs. Also included in these paragraphs is a discussion of Test B-3, which was conducted at the close of the preceding report period. The thrust chamber operating conditions and performance parameters determined for the three test firings conducted during this report period are presented in Table I together with the data obtained in previous beryllium-grain motor tests.

Beryllium-Grain Test B-3

Because reduced data for Test B-3 were not available at the close of the preceding report period, it was possible to include in Ref. 3 only a preliminary discussion of the test results. A more complete discussion of this test is presented below.

The thrust chamber configuration employed in Test B-3 is shown in Fig. 6. The flame mixer was designed to provide premixing of hydrogen and oxygen in a circumferential plenum within the mixer body. The premixed injectants were introduced at the grain exit plane through twelve ports, four ports located at each grain exit as shown in Fig. 7.

During the test firing, the chamber pressure was monitored on a digital volt meter and was observed to rise normally to a level of approximately 540 psia and then suddenly decay, indicating a chamber leak of substantial proportions. Upon opening the thrust stand enclosure, it was found that escaping combustion products had burned through the pressure tap lines and the regression rate probe, thermocouple and load cell cabling. A hydrogen line feeding the flame mixer had burned off, thus allowing hydrogen to escape and burn within the enclosure. Subsequent examination of the reduced data revealed that the damage to the instrumentation cabling and chamber pressure lines occurred during the early stages of the test firing and was of such a nature and extent as to render impossible the calculation of meaningful thrust chamber performance. With the lack of any conclusive evidence

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to the contrary, the possibility of a flash back into the plenum and lines of the premix flame mixer must be considered as a likely cause of the thrust chamber failure. Examination of the flame mixer revealed that the plenum in the area of the burned out hydrogen feed line was severely eroded. Although it is quite possible that this could have resulted after failure of the feed line permitted chamber gases to flow out through the plenum, the possibility that combustion within the plenum and feed line was the primary cause of the failure cannot be excluded. The nature of the failure and the lack of data preclude any conclusive explanation of its cause; however, the likelihood of flashback and the unsatisfactory performance associated with earlier premix flame mixer configurations are considered sufficient reasons to eliminate this type of mixer from further consideration.

Beryllium-Grain Motor Test B-4

The thrust chamber configuration used in Test B-4 is shown in Fig. 2. The repeated failure of the flame mixer configurations designed to inject premixed propellants and the more reliable performance of the three concentric-element injector configuration used in Test B-2 (see Ref. 3) prompted selection of the latter for use in Test B-4. The details of this mixer are shown in Fig. 8.

The severe chamber wall erosion/burnout experienced in previous tests dictated redesign of the postgrain mixing section of the thrust chamber. In an attempt to avoid recurrence of such chamber failures, a 12-in. long constant-area, graphite-lined mixing section was installed between the flame mixer and the convergent section of the secondary hydrogen injector to reduce wall erosion due to particle impingement. An additional benefit expected as a result of this chamber modification is improved metal combustion efficiency due to increased particle residence time.

During the initial attempt to fire the thrust chamber, the test was automatically terminated after 0.2 sec of motor operation by an unsatisfied pressure switch in the mixer hydrogen feed system. Examination of the enclosed thrust stand after the firing revealed that a hydrogen feed line to the flame mixer was burned off and that escaping hydrogen and combustion products had caused extensive damage within the enclosure. The pressure tap lines were burned off, and the cabling for the load cell, thermocouples and regression rate probes were badly burned. A later examination of the recorded data showed that primary hydrogen had been admitted to the combustion chamber prematurely, apparently due to failure of the main fuel valve to seat properly in the closed position after pretest flow checks. It is presumed that a portion of the primary hydrogen flow entered the mixer hydrogen manifold and combined with entrapped air to form a combustible mixture and that when the thrust chamber igniter was energized the combustible mixture was ignited, thereby causing the manifold failure. Inspection of the thrust chamber revealed that no damage had occurred to the chamber components and that the grain elements were unaffected by the above firing. The chamber was reassembled for testing.

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Difficulty was again experienced during an attempt to fire the motor, this time as a result of failure to satisfy the chamber pressure switch requirements. Examination of the pressure tap line revealed that it was partially restricted, resulting in a delay in the pressure build up at the pressure transducer. The test firing was automatically terminated after 0.35 sec when the pressure switch failed to detect the preselected chamber pressure level. The restricted line was replaced, and tests were performed to ensure that the time interval allowed for satisfying the pressure switch was sufficient. The motor was inspected and again prepared for testing.

The test firing duration was 5.6 sec. Subsequent examination of the thrust chamber revealed that none of the downstream components had suffered significant erosion, and a shadowgraph of the rokide-coated graphite nozzle insert taken after firing showed that the extent of throat enlargement was negligible. The lucite probes used for obtaining grain regression rate data were found to be melted within the probe holders. Eight of the regression rate probes failed to respond during the firing, and it is believed that the fusion of the lucite probes reduced the light transmission below the required signal level. The fusion of the lucite probes was attributed to the heating up of the propellant grain to approximately 300 F during the second aborted attempt to fire the motor. Examination of the propellant grain revealed that irregular regression had occurred at the upstream portions of the grain elements. The pregrain flow straightener ports were badly eroded during the firing, and it is believed that the irregular grain regression was a direct result of this failure. During reduction of the test data, it was determined that an over-size choked venturi had been installed in the oxygen supply line to the flame mixer. This installation error resulted in an oxygen flow rate that was considerably higher than the design value. The excess oxygen flow caused a significant reduction in chamber temperature in the postgrain mixing section and a concomitant reduction in metal combustion efficiency which manifested itself in a reduction of thrust chamber performance. Performance calculations based on time-averaged data yielded a C^* efficiency of 45 percent and an I_{sp} efficiency of 51.7 percent. Instantaneous values of the C^* and I_{sp} efficiencies were 62 percent and 63.4 percent, respectively. The pertinent data obtained during Test B-4 are presented in Table 1.

Beryllium-Grain Motor Test B-5

In spite of the fact that lucite probes had been used successfully for regression rate measurements during the aluminum-grain motor tests, the results of Test B-4 prompted concern regarding their continued use for beryllium-grain motor tests. Therefore, it was decided that both lucite and glass rods should be used as probes during Test B-5 in order to determine which probe material is more suitable. The thrust chamber configuration employed in Test B-5 was generally the same as in Test B-4 with the exception that the regression rate probes consisted of an alternating array of lucite rods and glass light pipes. The test duration was 5.9 sec. Examination of the thrust chamber after the firing revealed that the postgrain components had suffered no significant erosion, and a shadowgraph of the rokide-coated graphite nozzle insert showed no measurable throat enlargement. However, the pregrain

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flow straightener ports were eroded and the grain regression was somewhat nonuniform. All regression rate probes responded during the test, but inspection of the probes after the firing revealed that some of the lucite rods had melted within their holders, while all of the glass light pipes had remained intact. It was thus decided that glass light pipes would be employed in all future beryllium-grain motor tests. The time-average values of c^* and I_{sp} efficiencies were 79.2 percent and 67.8 percent, respectively. The instantaneous performance values calculated using values of thrust chamber operating parameters recorded 3.0 sec after ignition are $\eta_c^* = 84.8$ percent and $\eta_{I_{sp}} = 79.3$ percent, and at 4.5 sec the values of η_c^* and $\eta_{I_{sp}}$ are 89.7 and 84.8 percent, respectively. The data reduction calculations revealed that Test B-5 resulted in the highest thrust chamber performance yet attained with a tribrid motor during this program. This relatively high performance level assumes particular significance since it was attained at a mixture ratio more nearly approaching the theoretical optimum value (neglecting the effects of two-phase flow) than that of any previous test. Theoretically, optimum thrust chamber performance should be realized when the values of $\dot{W}_{O_2}/\dot{W}_{H_2}$ and \dot{W}_{H_2}/\dot{W}_P are 1.75 and 0.259, respectively. The experimental values obtained during this test were $\dot{W}_{O_2}/\dot{W}_{H_2} = 2.33$ and $\dot{W}_{H_2}/\dot{W}_P = 0.225$. It is also of interest to note that the theoretical value of specific impulse corresponding to the experimental conditions obtained during Test B-5, was 420.5 sec compared to the optimum value of 432 sec. The pertinent performance values for Test B-5 appear in Table 1.

Beryllium-Grain Motor Test B-6

Test B-6 was conducted at the end of the report period following an extended delay imposed by a period of unfavorable wind conditions. Several changes in the thrust chamber design were made as a result of information obtained during Test B-5. Performance calculations for Test B-5 indicated that the grain regression rate was lower than that required to provide optimum stoichiometry between the injected metal and available oxidizer. Consequently, the grain length for Test B-6 was increased by 2 in. (see Fig. 9) and the distribution of oxygen flow between pregrain and post-grain injectors was altered in an attempt to provide the optimum mixture ratio. In order to prevent recurrence of the pregrain flow straightener erosion encountered in previous tests, a new configuration having larger inlet radii was installed in the thrust chamber. A further change was the installation of a particle probe system for use in extracting a sample of the combustion products at the exhaust nozzle entrance. The difficulty inherent in obtaining a true sample of particle-laden exhaust products is well known and lies principally in the inability to match velocities between exhaust flow and sampling flow (i.e., isokinetic sampling) by conventional techniques. Cognizance of this difficulty led to the decision to attempt particle sampling by the simple expedient of withdrawing the products through a 1/4-in. hole normal to the wall at the nozzle entrance plane as shown in Fig. 9. The deficiencies of this method are recognized, but are judged to be not grossly less representative than conventional nonisokinetic probes inserted in the exhaust stream. Figure 10 is a schematic representation of the exhaust particle sampling system. The sample tank is evacuated prior to a test firing. An automatic timing circuit is provided to open

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the inlet valve at a preselected time to allow the products to flow through the probe and then through the water-cooled section before entering the tank. The timing circuit also allows the selection of sampling duration. The trapped particles are deposited on a metal filter after the run and removed for analysis to determine particle size and composition. A sample bottle is provided in the system to allow a gas sample to be taken immediately following the run for chromatographic analysis in an attempt to establish the efficiency of combustion at the point of sampling. The temperature and pressure of the products entering the sample tank are recorded during sampling.

Post-firing examination of the thrust chamber components revealed that there had been no significant erosion of the postgrain chamber components and that the exhaust nozzle throat had suffered negligible erosion. Examination of the pregrain flow straightener showed that the enlarged radii had prevented erosion at the inlet of the ports, however, one of the ports was eroded at the exit. The appearance of the propellant grain indicated that, in spite of this minor failure, the regression of each of the three grain elements had been axisymmetric and relatively uniform in the axial direction. Apparently consistent grain regression rate probe signals were obtained during the run. Examination of the sequence-of-events record made during the test firing revealed that the particle sample tank valve had not opened. This failure was at first difficult to understand, as the valve operation was checked and found satisfactory both immediately before and immediately after the test firing. However, subsequent investigations have shown that an erratic thermal delay relay in the control circuit was the source of the problem. The circuit has been modified to include a more reliable valve timing device. Data for Test B-6 are presently being reduced and will be presented in the next report.

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SECTION 4

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The results of the tribrid motor firings conducted during the report period indicate that considerable progress has been made in the elimination of the major problems encountered earlier in the experimental test program. Design changes have been instrumental in correcting such problems as (1) failure to obtain reliable grain regression rate measurements, (2) severe erosion/burnout of thrust chamber walls, (3) unsatisfactory postgrain mixer performance, and (4) exhaust nozzle throat section.

A series of diagnostic tests of the grain regression rate probes conducted during the aluminum-grain motor tests provided design criteria for the elimination of light transmission and electronic circuitry problems. However, when conducting beryllium-grain motor tests it was found that the lucite rod probes, which performed well in the aluminum-grain tests, were not completely reliable due to their relatively low fusion temperature. Therefore, a test (B-5) was conducted with an alternating array of lucite and glass rod probes in an attempt to determine which material is more appropriate. The results showed that glass rods are clearly superior in this application. Thus glass rods were selected for use in all remaining beryllium-grain motor tests.

The incorporation of a low-angle convergent section and a constant-area mixing section downstream of the grain exit has eliminated wall erosion/burnout in the downstream thrust chamber components. The greatly improved performance realized during Test B-5 indicates that improved postgrain mixing and metal combustion are promoted by the use of the flame mixer in conjunction with the constant-area mixing section. The use of rokide-coated graphite exhaust nozzles has thus far proved effective in eliminating the severe nozzle throat erosion problem encountered in previous tests.

Work planned for the next report period will include (1) attempts to obtain particle samples from the thrust chamber exhaust products for use in determinations of two-phase flow losses and (2) incorporation of water-cooled components into the thrust chamber for obtaining thrust chamber heat transfer data. The particle samples will be obtained by the method previously described using the probe system shown in Fig. 10. Attempts will be made to obtain heat transfer data at various thrust chamber locations such as the primary injector, the postgrain mixing section, downstream of the secondary hydrogen injection plane and at the exhaust nozzle throat. Figure 11 is an example of the manner in which water-cooling will be applied to the secondary injector section. The configuration of a water-cooled exhaust nozzle throat is shown in Fig. 12.

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TABLE 1
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF BERYLLIUM-GRAIN MOTOR TESTS

Test No.	Mixer Configuration	Method of Calculation	t _b sec	A _t in. ²	P _c - psig up down	F lb	W _{O₂} /W _{H₂} (overall)	W _{H₂} /W _p (overall)	i in./sec	τ _c °	τ _{isp} %	τ _{cf} %
B-1	Canted Copper Insert	Time Averaged	6.6	0.783	595.7 up 437.4 down	550.4	1.92	0.246	0.093	71.2	74	104
B-2	Flame Mixer	Time Averaged	3.8	1.131	311.5 up 287.7 down	449	2.44	0.232	0.153	55.8	54	96.8
		Instantaneous	-	1.138	475 up 433 down	744.2	2.31	0.206	0.155	72.5	70.4	97
B-3	Flame Mixer (see Fig. 6)		4.0									
B-4	Flame Mixer (see Fig. 8)	Time Averaged	5.6	1.528	347 up 269 down	658.5	4.99	0.144	0.083	45	51.7	115
		Instantaneous	-	1.595	454.5 up 374.7 down	913.9	4.86	0.143	0.12	62	63.4	102
B-5	Flame Mixer (see Fig. 8)	Time Averaged	5.9	1.219	470 up 420.5 down	690.4	2.27	0.217	0.101	79.2	69.8	88.1
		Instantaneous	-	1.219	510.2 up 456.7 down	756.4	2.21	0.236	0.094	84.8	79.3	93.5
B-c		Instantaneous	-	1.219	487 up 478.4 down	798.4	2.33	0.225	0.052	89.7	84.8	94.5

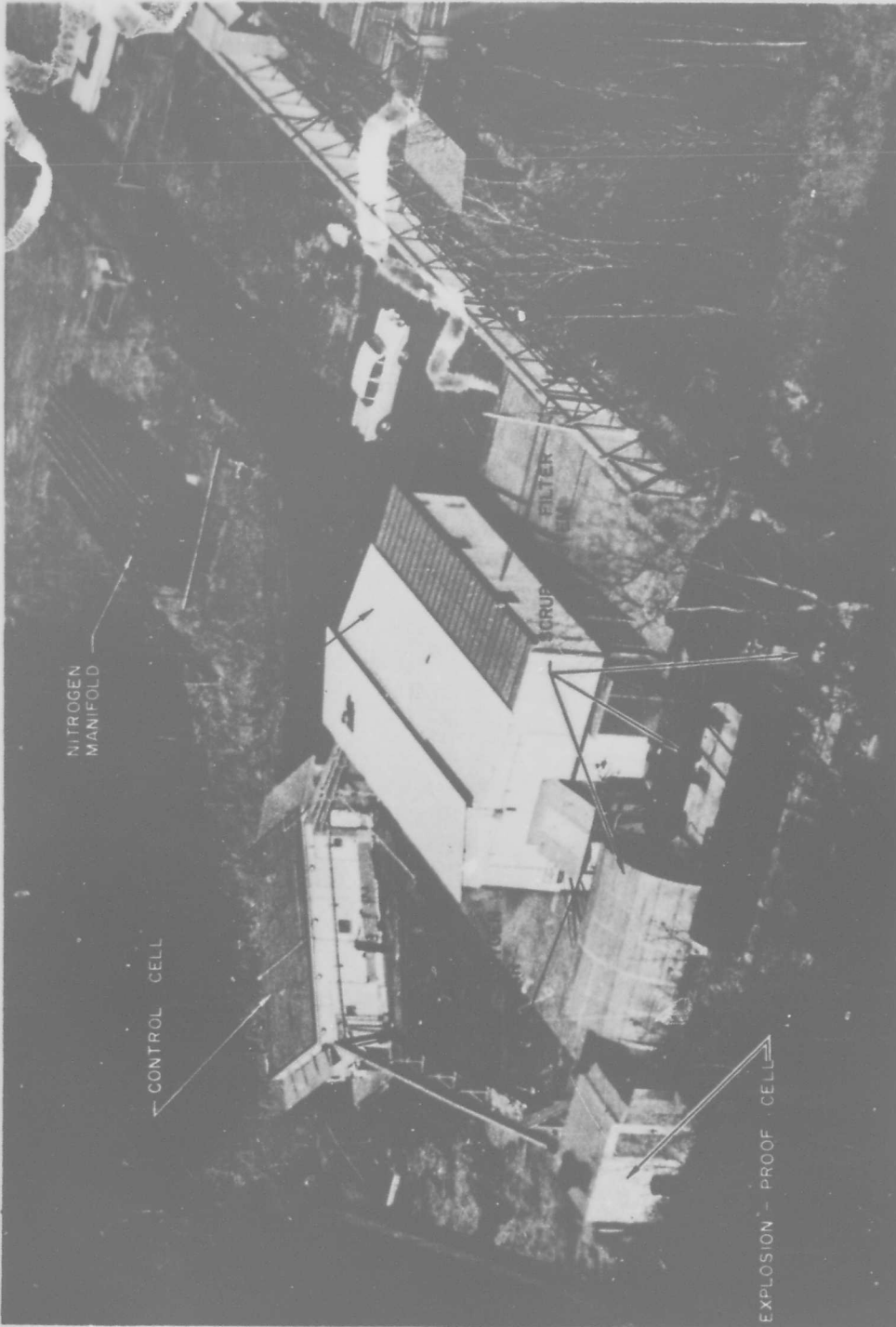
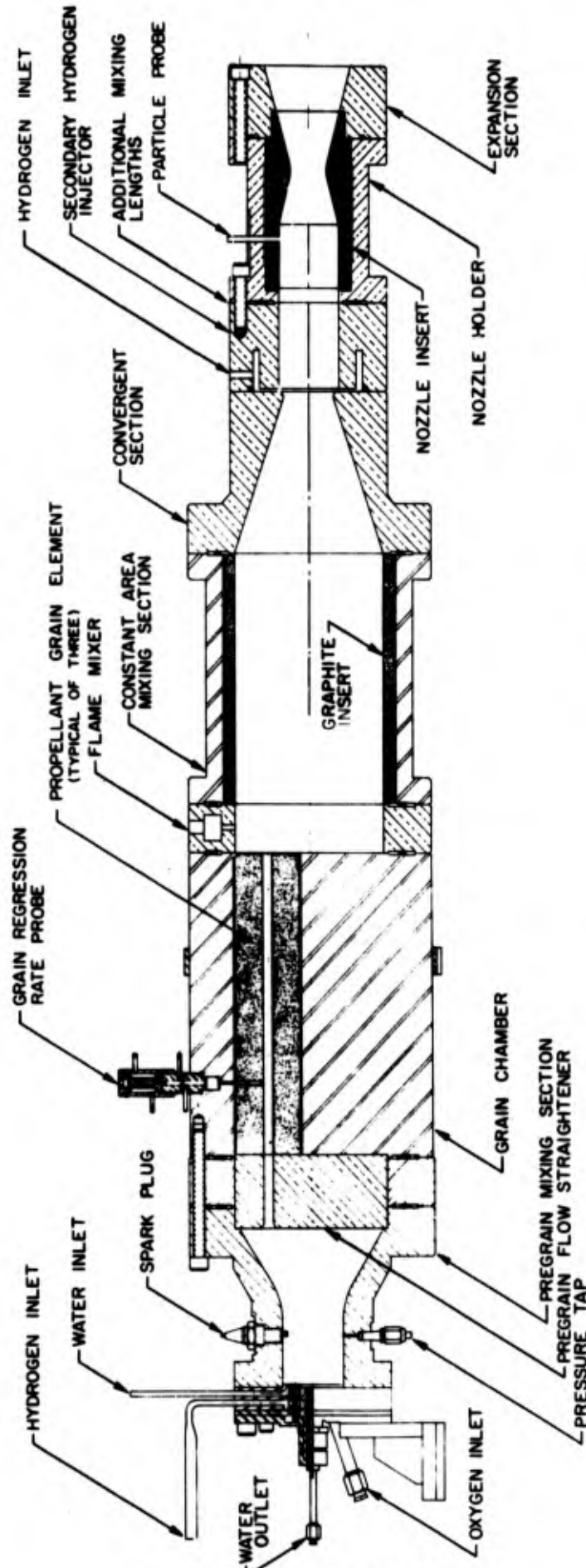


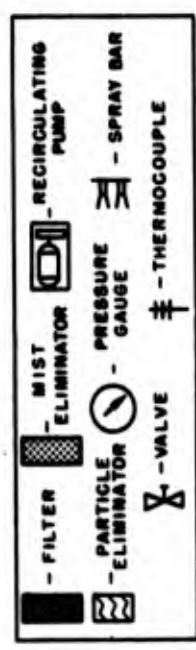
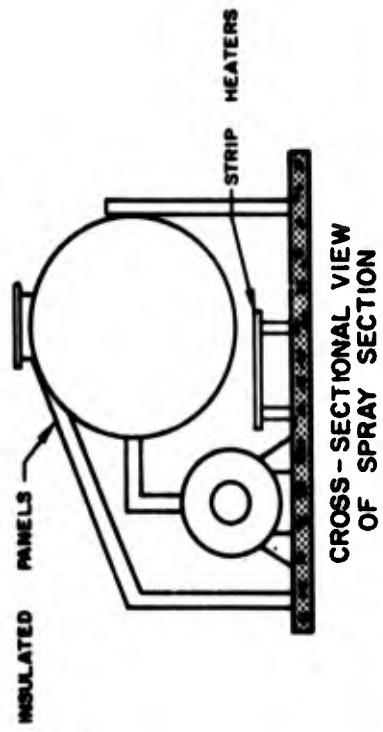
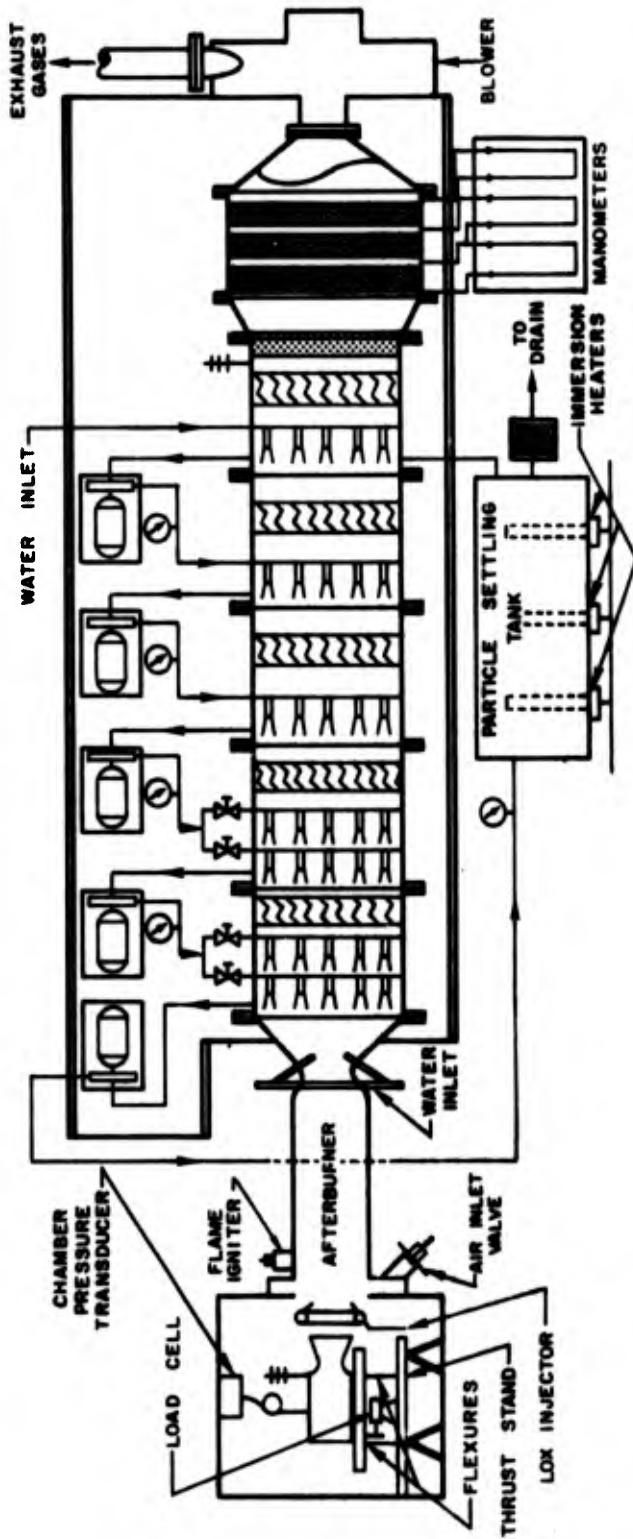
FIGURE I - ROCKET TEST INSTALLATION

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FIGURE 2 - SMALL SCALE TRIBRID ROCKET MOTOR
PARALLEL - GRAIN CONFIGURATION



CROSS - SECTIONAL VIEW OF SPRAY SECTION

FIGURE 3 - EXHAUST GAS SCRUBBING - FILTERING SYSTEM

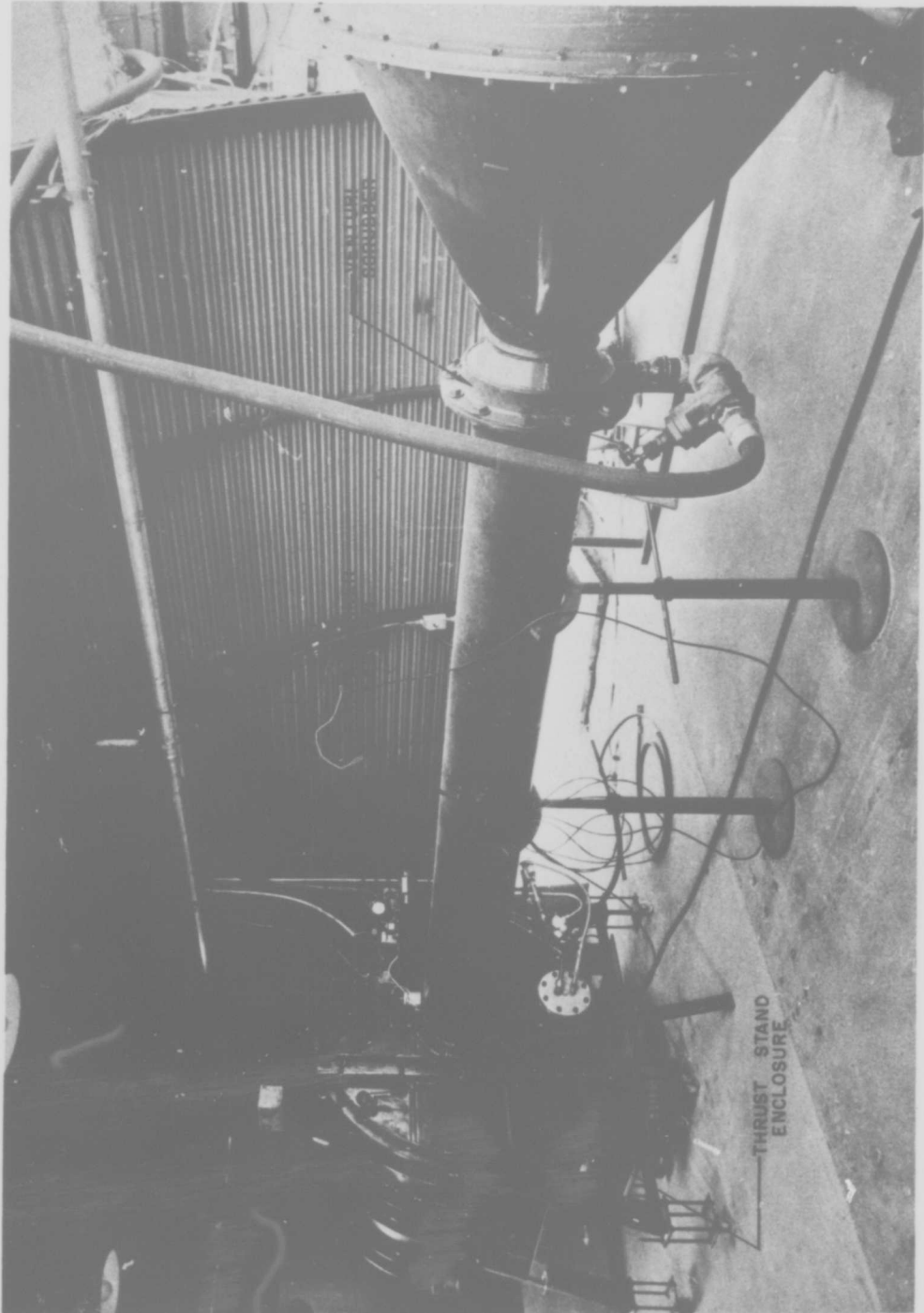


FIGURE 4 - ENCLOSED THRUST STAND AND AFTERBURNER

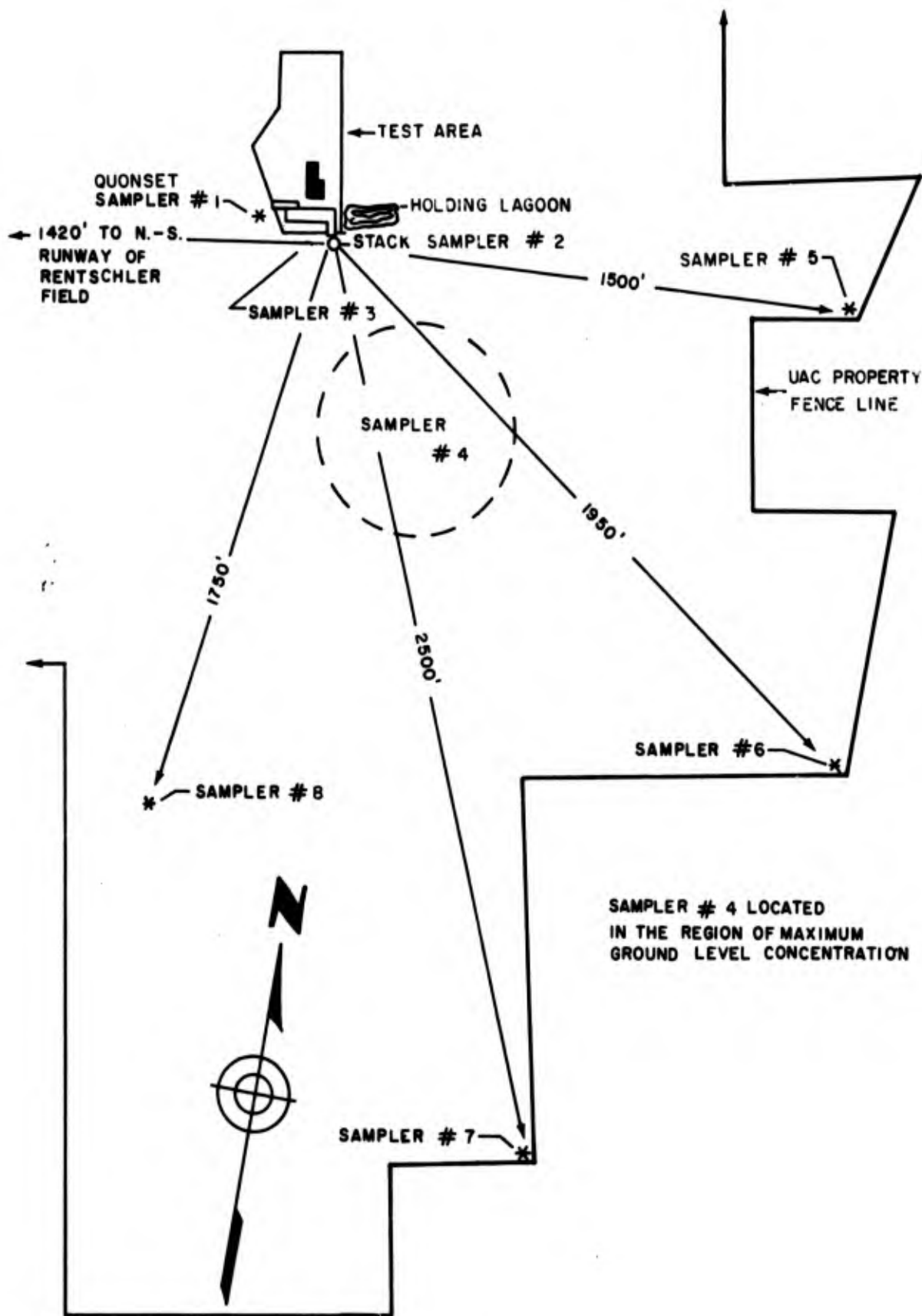
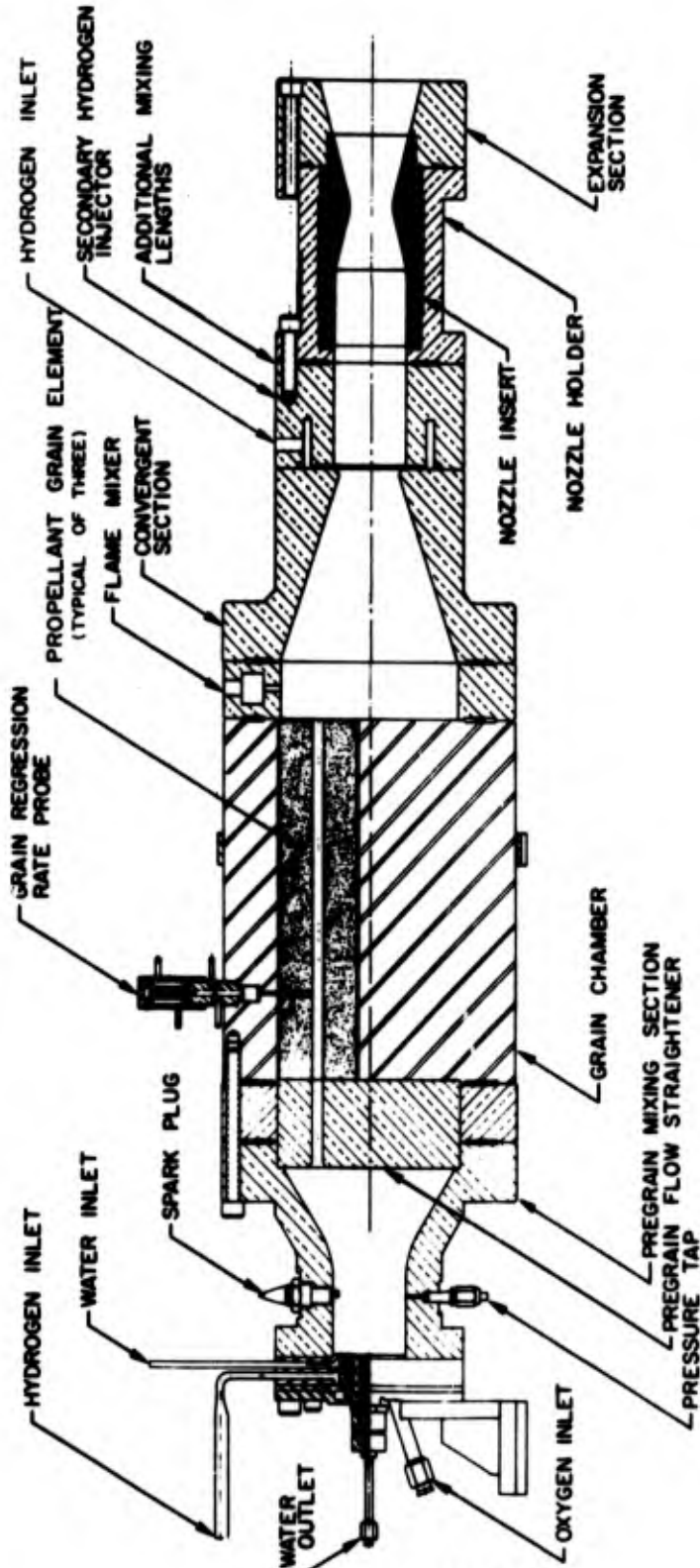


FIGURE 5 - AIR SAMPLER LOCATIONS

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FIGURE 6 - SMALL SCALE TRIBRID ROCKET MOTOR
PARALLEL GRAIN CONFIGURATION

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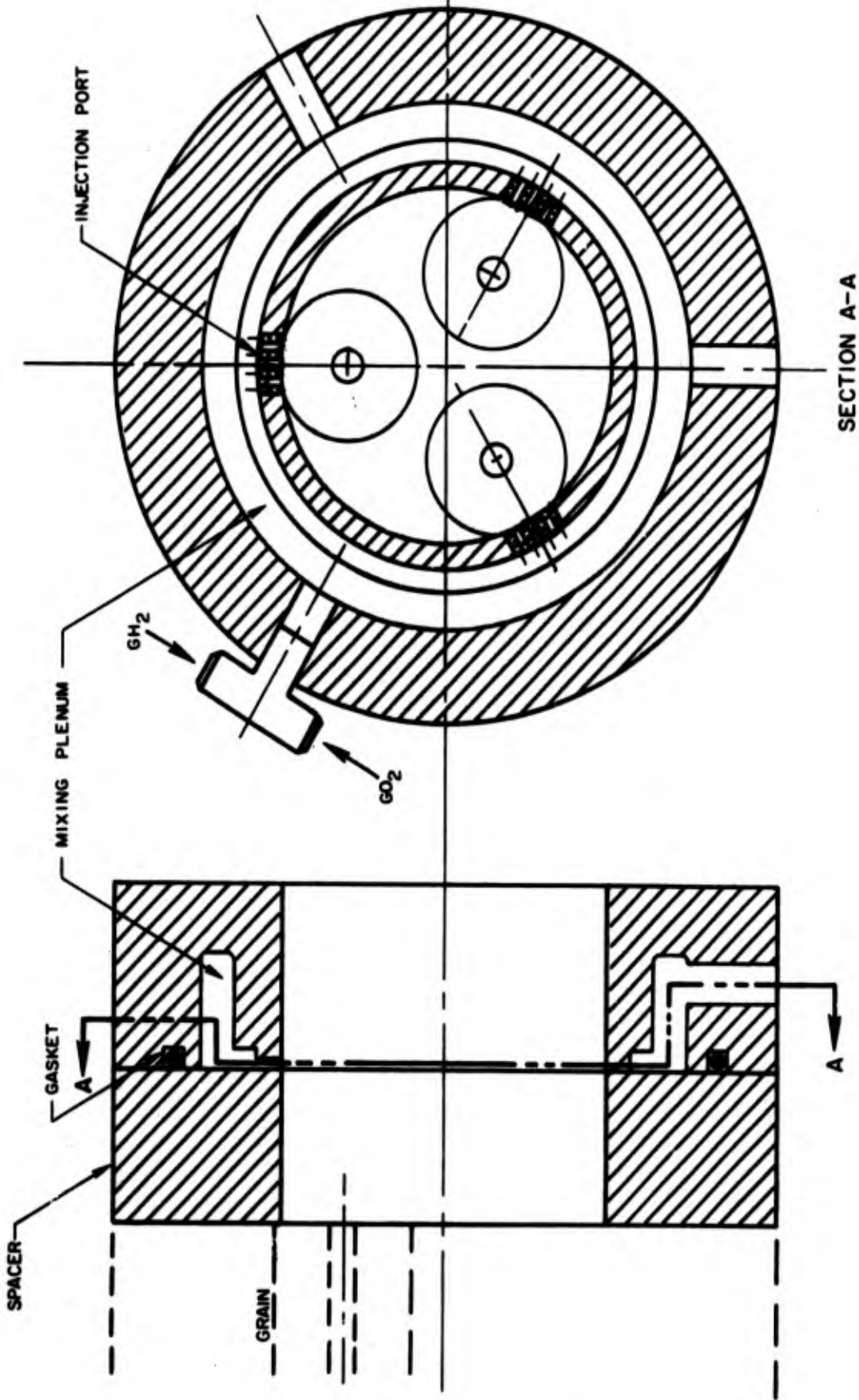
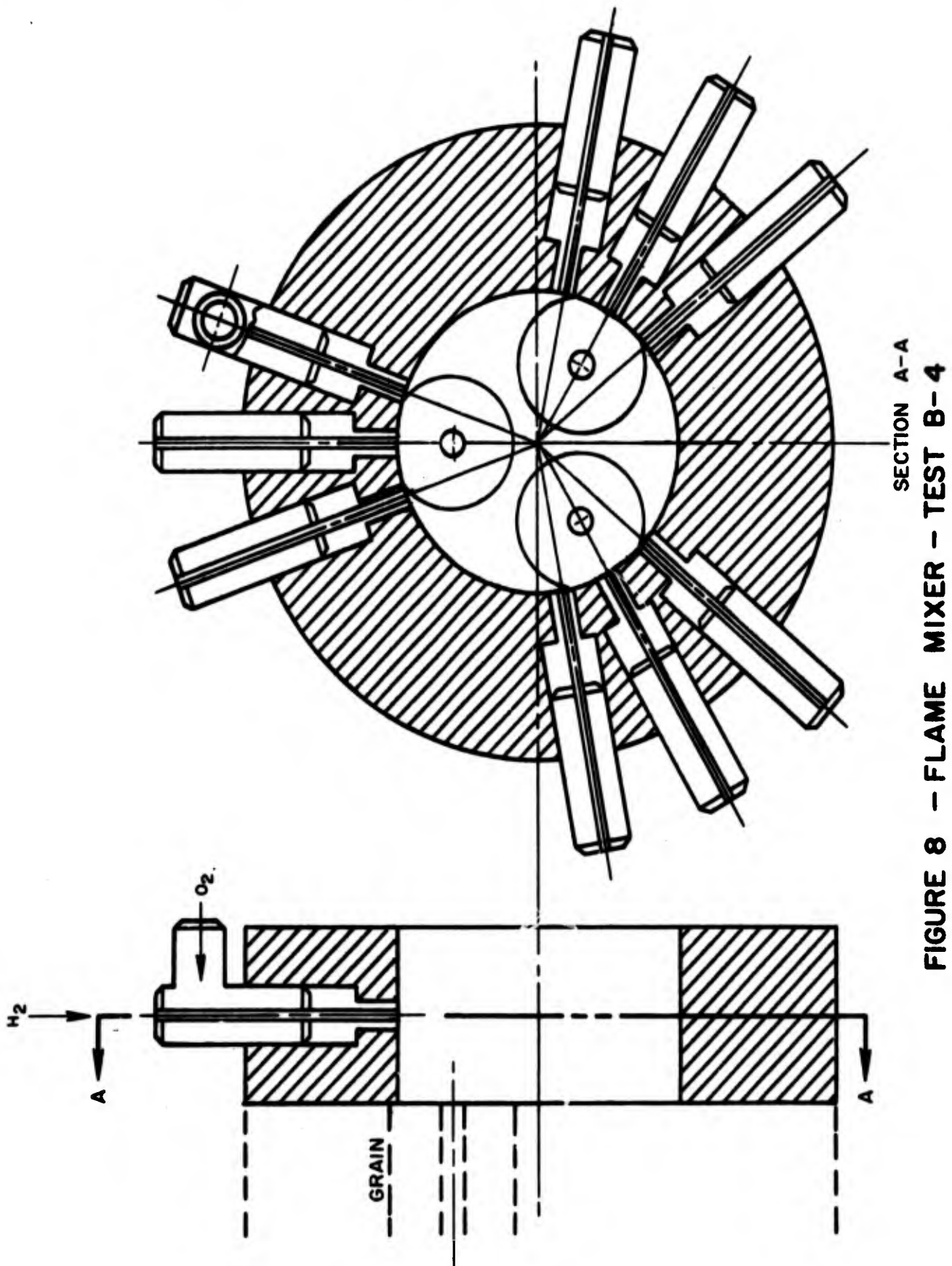


FIGURE 7 - FLAME MIXER - TEST B-3

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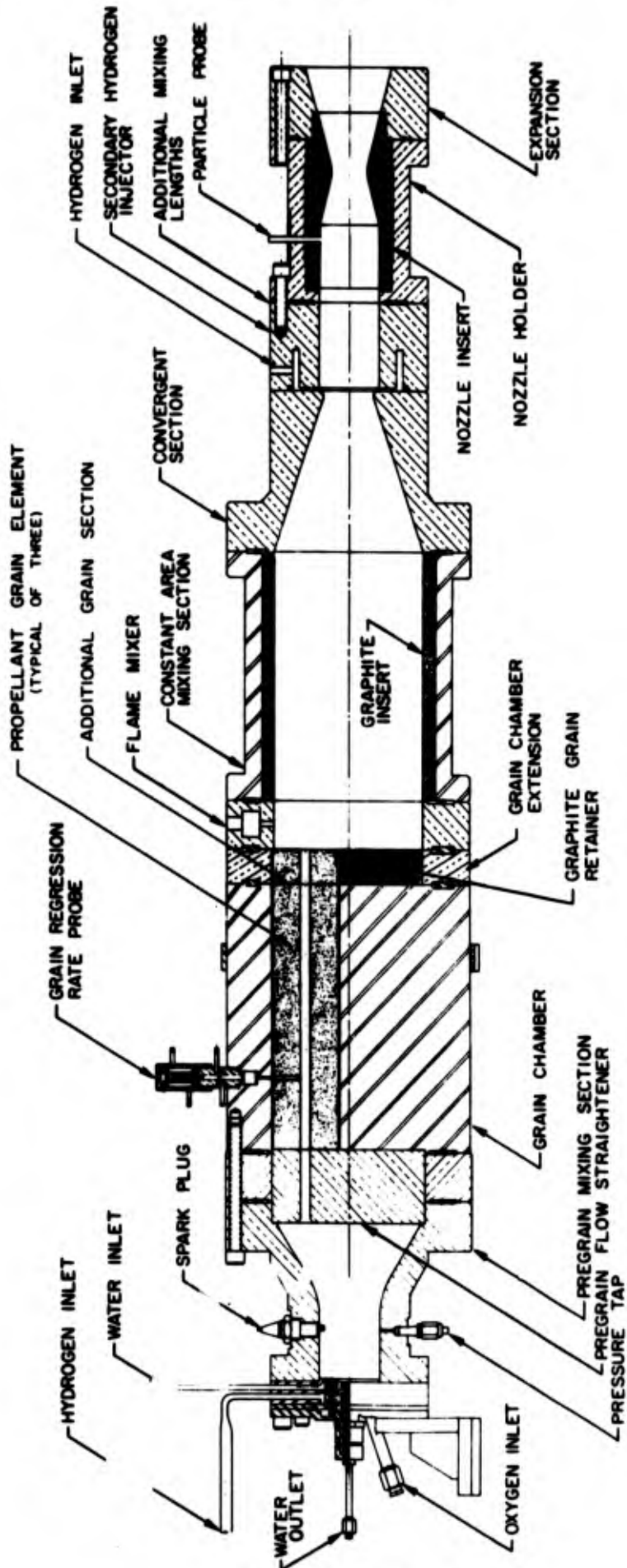
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SECTION A-A
FIGURE 8 - FLAME MIXER - TEST B-4

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FIGURE 9 - SMALL SCALE TRIBRID ROCKET MOTOR
PARALLEL - GRAIN CONFIGURATION

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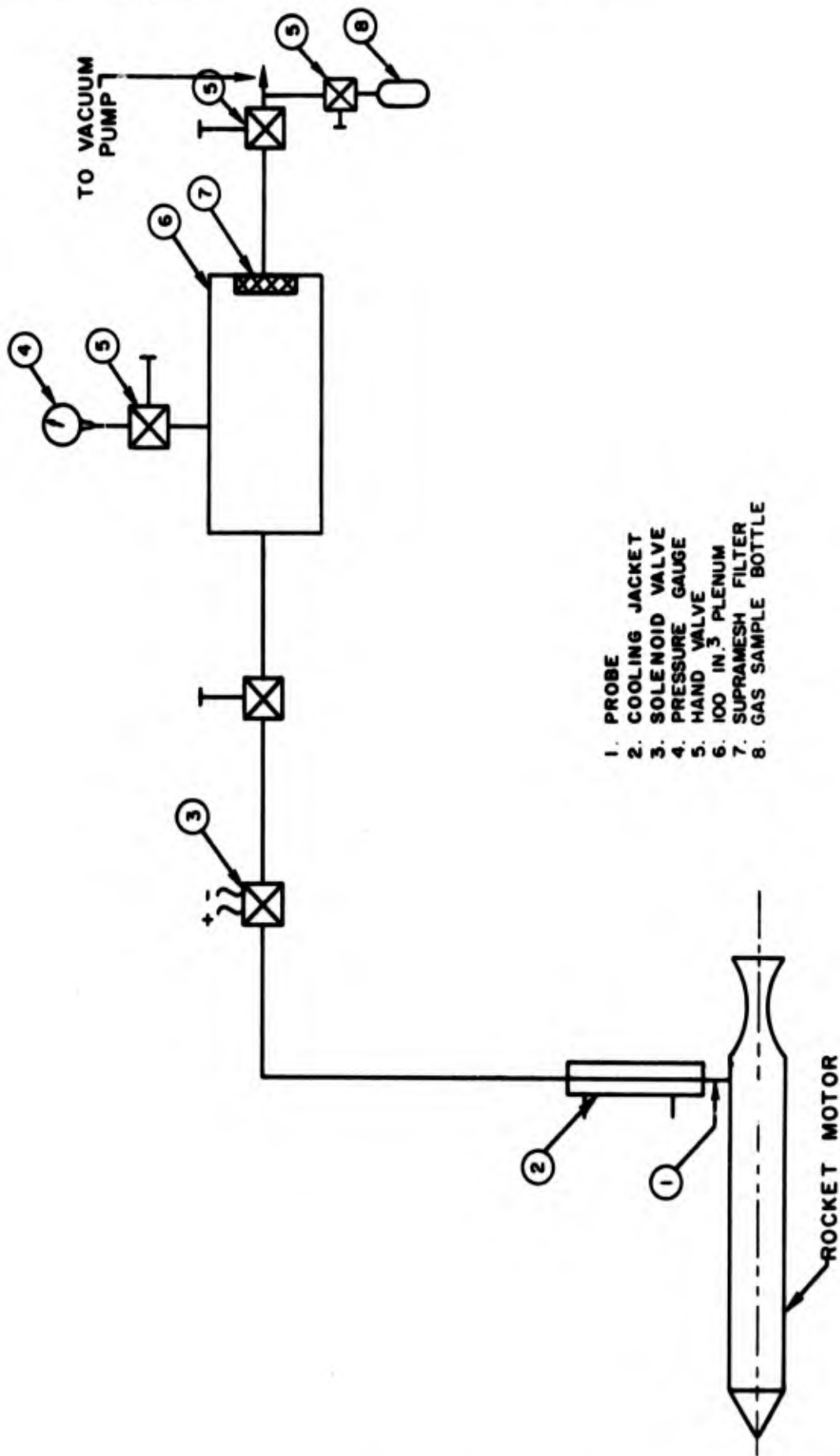


FIGURE 10 - PARTICLE SAMPLING SYSTEM

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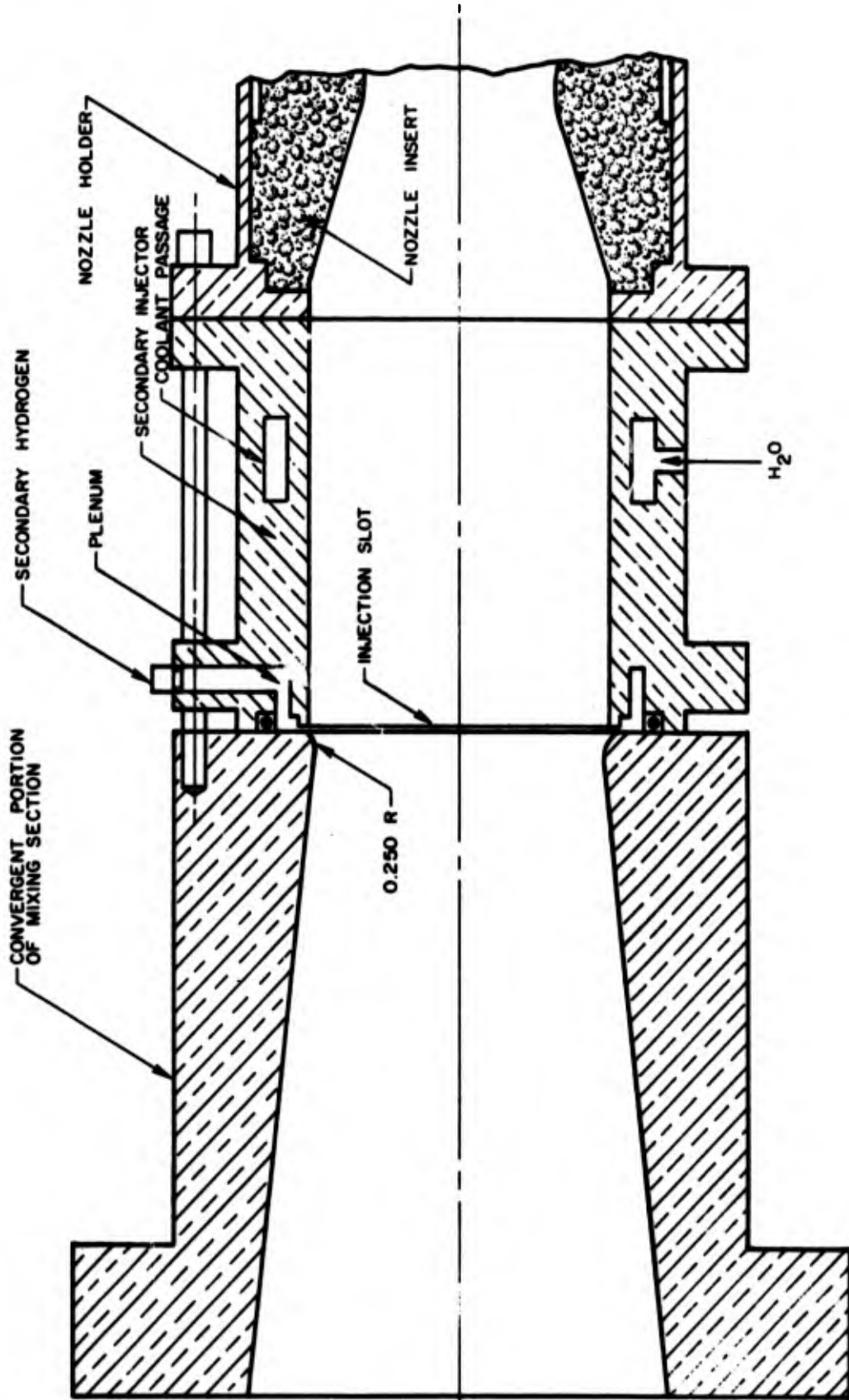


FIGURE 11 - WATER - COOLED SECONDARY HYDROGEN INJECTOR

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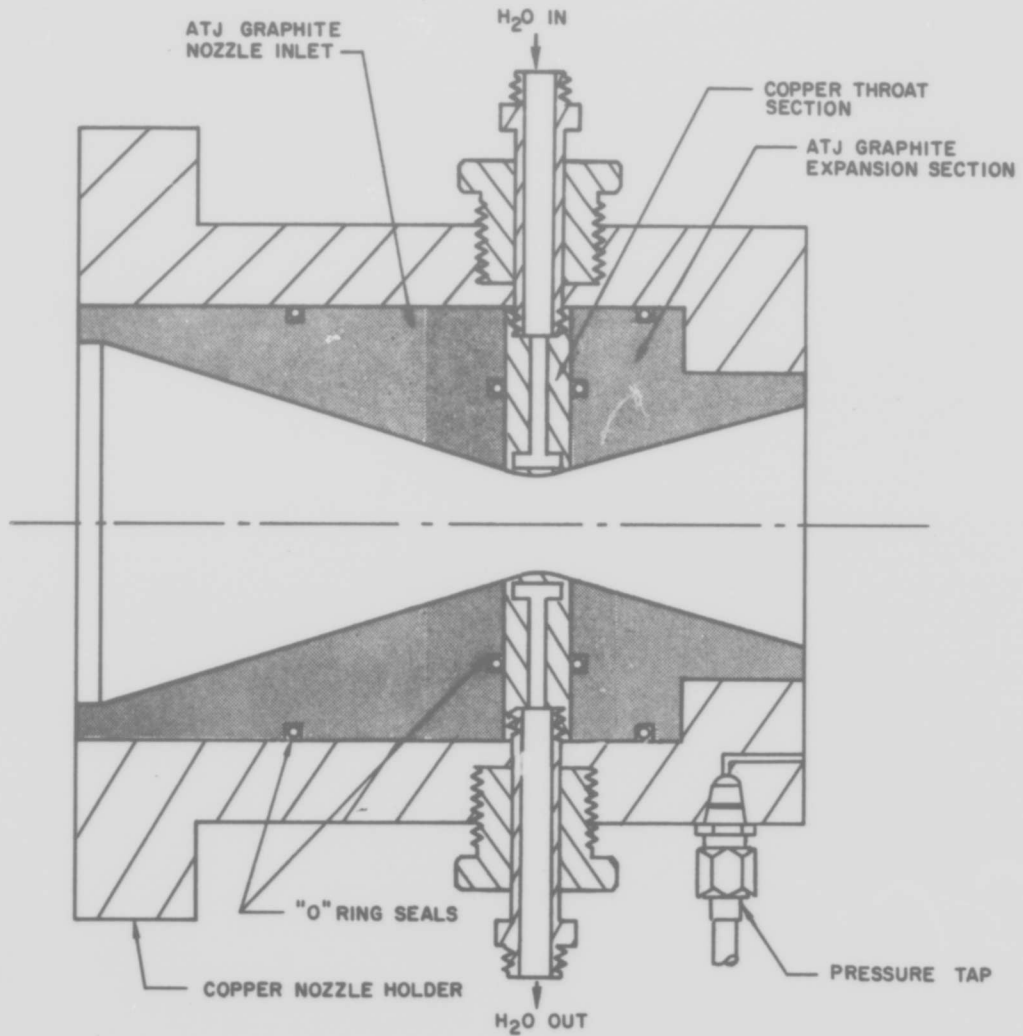


FIGURE 12 - WATER - COOLED NOZZLE ASSEMBLY

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13. ABSTRACT

The United Aircraft Research Laboratories under contract with the United States Air Force are conducting an investigation to determine the performance characteristics of a cryogenic tripropellant system in small-scale thrust chambers. This report summarizes the work performed during the period March 1 through May 31, 1966.

14. KEY WORDS	LINK A		LINK B		LINK C	
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