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### NASA's Mars Images May Show Archeological Site

From: **RSchatte@aol.com**  
 Date: Fri, 12 Sep 1997 23:35:00 -0400 (EDT)  
 Fwd Date: Sat, 13 Sep 1997 01:46:36 -0400  
 Subject: NASA's Mars Images May Show Archeological Site

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Forwarded message:

Subj: NASA's Mars Images May Show Archeological Site' Say SPSR Scientists  
 Date: 97-09-12 19:53:14 EDT  
 From: AOL News

SANTA ROSA, Calif., Sept. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- A scientific research organization, whose members have been studying the Cydonia area of Mars for up to twenty years, today praised NASA for its announcement Thursday that NASA's Global Surveyor spacecraft, which arrived at Mars on Thursday, would "definitely" take detailed pictures of the controversial region on the Red Planet.

While NASA has downplayed any particular significance to the site on the Northern plains of Mars, the research group, headed by Professor Horace W. Crater of the University of Tennessee Space Institute, has recently published several peer-reviewed scientific papers on the subject.

Professor Stanley V. McDaniel of Sonoma State University and spokesman for the Society for Planetary SETI Research (SPSR) said, "Our research has produced evidence that strongly suggests this area may contain ruins of artificial structures."

According to McDaniel, separate statistical studies by Crater, imaging expert Dr. Mark J. Carlotto, and archaeologist Dr. James F. Strange of the University of South Florida, have shown a "reasonably high probability" in favor of some of the objects turning out to be artifacts designed by intelligent beings.

Among the controversial objects is the famous "Face on Mars." Although often a subject of ridicule, this object has been carefully analyzed by SPSR scientists and found to contain a remarkable symmetry and a wealth of detail that make it hard to dismiss as an accidental formation, McDaniel said. He stressed that the researchers' interests are not especially focused on the so-called "Face," but rather on several sharply angled features in the surrounding terrain that are difficult to explain in purely geological terms.

"We are looking forward to the American public getting same-day release of high-quality Cydonia images as soon as Surveyor can take them," said McDaniel.

"Our major concern," he continued, "is to ensure that NASA will photograph the entire Cydonia area, not just

the 'Face,' with the intermediate resolution capability of the camera." He stated that the intermediate resolution, five times better than that of the existing Viking spacecraft images taken in 1976, could take continuous images of a long strip of terrain and thus increase the chances of obtaining photos of the most important objects. In contrast, a single high resolution photo of the 'Face' alone may be far more difficult to obtain.

However, the Camera contractor, Dr. Michael Malin, has indicated that he will attempt to photograph the tiny Pathfinder Lander. If this can be done, he should be able to use this capability to provide equally detailed images of several of the controversial objects at Cydonia, McDaniel stated. "This would be the frosting on the cake," he said. "With this level of resolution, we could probably know conclusively whether there are ancient structures on Mars."

Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory expect photographic reconnaissance of the planet to begin next March.

CO: Society for Planetary SETI Research  
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