



MOONBASE ALPHA TECHNICAL NOTEBOOK

PAGE 2000: COMLOCK

Hardware

Commlock-2000

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Commlock – Portable Communication and Locking Device is a hand-held, multi-function sensor/computer/transceiver designed for use on Moonbase Alpha and most extraterrestrial space centers. Carried on the belt, it functions as a security key (restricting access to sensitive and command areas), a transponder (instantly pinpointing the location of its carrier), an audio-visual communications unit and a programmable computer.

The Commlock's "key-tone", individually set for all duty personnel, allows its owner passage into areas appropriate to his rank, position and security clearance – in most cases, these are limited to duty stations, living quarters, sanitary facilities, recreation areas and dining centers. Command and Security personnel have unlimited access with their Commlocks, but computer control of doors as directed by the Moonbase Commander and Chief of Security overrides all Commlock frequencies.

The Commlock accepts either keyboard or voice programming, and in addition to its twenty standard functions (a maximum of four may be used at one time, unless the unit is plugged into a desk-top receiver, putting it in direct contact with the main computer) it has several programmable modes:

In Communications Mode, the keyboard can address any other Commlock, Communication Post or Intercommunication Unit within its range.

In Calculator Mode, the Commlock functions as a logarithmic calculator; the keyboard and calculator function keys provide number and operation entry, with the result displayed on the video screen.

In Computer Mode, the unit acts as a remote terminal of Alpha's main computer banks, and allows the user to retrieve, execute and store programs, draw information from the library computer banks or transmit data.

A Commlock is never deactivated, except during repair and is available on a 24-hour basis for emergency calls. When the Privacy Setting is activated, the Commlock screens out all routine and personal calls. The Restricted Setting (on Command Commlocks only) limits reception to security transmissions and official communiqués.