Reading Questions

"MIT AS SYSTEM-BUILDER: SAGE," IN RESCUING PROMETHEUS STS.069,ONE DAY AFTER CLASS #4.

Note: Do not get bogged down in the details of his narrative. Read it quickly until you get to a part where you realize Hughes is stating a larger point, and then slow down. Focus your reading on the following questions: What is the basic premise of this chapter? What are the reverse salient and the critical problem in this story? What does this narrative tell you about the interplay between military and civilian technologies in recent times? What does this chapter tell you about the organization of technological system-building? In particular, what does it tell you about MIT as a site of technological innovation and development? What does it tell you about MIT's values (note the epigram at the head of the chapter], organization, and culture? Do you think that MIT's values, organization, and culture and culture have changed from the 1950s? If so, how does this affect MIT's ability to undertake "its special responsibility to render public service" at the present? If not, does MIT need to change in order to undertake this responsibility effectively? For extra credit: What is happening these days at Lincoln Lab? At MITRE? With Jay Forrester?