

# Re: Barack Obama Publishes His Space Policy

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- *From:* Fred J. McCall <fmccall@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 13 Jan 2008 12:54:48 -0700
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jacob navia <jacob@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

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:But even if it is possible to send humans to the moon, progress in  
:robotics and computers make such a trip unnecessary since we can  
:travel around in the moon using robots much cheaper than going  
:in person.

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And if you want to send toasters to space rather than people, that's  
the perfect position.

Now remove your agenda and try again.

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:Humans can't survive in the moon for longer periods (3-4 weeks or  
:more) if they have no radiation shielding. BEFORE humans go to  
:the moon they need to build the moon station using robots, THEN,  
:longer trips to the moon are possible.

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Silly. Even if your 3-4 week claim is right, there's a whole  
Moon-load of rock and such there. Ever heard of 'craters' and  
'caves'?

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:Radio delay to the moon is just 1 second, short enough to make  
:very easy driving a robot there.

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Not so much, no. Try walking across the room and examining objects  
doing a 'step-look' sequence of a second for each one. See how long  
just exploring the room takes.

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:My point is: robotic missions allows us to explore NOW, and  
:develop the technology to enable the trips to space by humans  
:LATER.

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But what are we exploring for if people aren't going? Exploring can wait in that case and we can kill planetary science for the foreseeable future.

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"It's always different. It's always complex. But at some point, somebody has to draw the line. And that somebody is always me.... I am the law."

— Buffy, The Vampire Slayer

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