

FOURTH U.S. MAN IN ORBIT

The flights by Major L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., and other American astronauts are a natural outgrowth of man's curiosity about the world. Each year since World War II man has reached higher into the heavens, first with small instrumented rockets, then with complex satellites, and since 1961 with unmanned missions. Space scientists perform basic research which is transformed into complicated mechanisms by engineers and technicians. The U.S. Government cooperates with industry and educational institutions in launching and tracking spacecraft that automatically radio such scientific data to ground stations. This information is needed to plan and conduct manned flights. Projects Gemini and Apollo will extend these early missions, until Americans land on the moon before the end of this decade.

Commander Alan B. Shepard, America's first man in space, retains his spacecraft piloting skill by practicing "missions" in a Mercury flight simulator. Here he adjusts the helmet of his pressure suit while watching the instrument panel overhead. He kept abreast of changes in the real spacecraft to assist Astronaut Gordon Cooper during his flight preparations.

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Recommended by

~~63-468~~ 63-467 Alan B. Shepard

El capitán de fragata Alan B. Shepard, primer hombre puesto en el espacio por los Estados Unidos, conserva su habilidad en pilotar naves espaciales, practicando "misiones" en un simulador de vuelo, Mercurio. Aquí se ajusta el casco de su equipo a presión mientras observa el panel de instrumentos que hay en lo alto. Tuvo en cuenta los cambios de la auténtica nave espacial para ayudar al astronauta Gordon Cooper en los preparativos de su vuelo.

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