

Orbital flights conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are part of a long-range program aimed at manned flights to the moon and back to earth by the end of this decade. Astronauts in the program trained rigorously for years while thousands of scientists, engineers and technicians gave maximum support to their efforts. A new group of astronauts will begin training in late 1962 for the two-man Gemini spacecraft which is now being built.

Astronaut Walter M. Schirra, in his pressure suit, stands alongside a model of his Mercury spacecraft. The upper structure is an escape tower designed to carry an astronaut to safety if anything goes wrong with the Atlas rocket during launching. The tower is automatically jettisoned about 20 seconds after the rocket leaves the launch pad.

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WALTER M. SCHIRRA