



U.S. NAVY MEN STUDY SPACE TRAVEL IN EXPERIMENTAL EARTH-BOUND CAPSULES

The U.S. Navy is conducting a series of simulated "trips to the moon" in experimental space capsules at various installations around the country. The "travellers," all volunteers, are testing new equipment and exploring the limits of human adaptability to the strange and somewhat unknown conditions of flight in outer space.

In Philadelphia, six Navy enlisted men recently completed a seven-day "trip" in a 5-by-11 foot compression chamber. The earth-bound spacemen worked nine-and-a-half hours a day, slept eight and spent the remainder of their time eating and relaxing. "Because of the crowded quarters, only one of us could move at a time," said Forrest V. Miller, a parachute rigger chief at the Philadelphia Naval Base. "Therefore, there was no possibility of playing any games," he added, "although cards and checkers were available." The work consisted of taking complex tests in which flashing lights provided mathematical and reasoning problems.

Navy Lt. Arthur F. Vohden recently completed a 24-hour stay in a space chamber depressurized to simulate an altitude of 80,000 feet. The experiment was conducted at the San Diego Naval Base in California.

At the Norfolk Naval Air Station in Virginia, Lt. Cmdr. Jack Neiman, 44-year-old Navy pilot, completed a 44-hour simulated space flight in a decompression chamber. He tested a newly designed nylon-rubber suit developed by the Goodrich Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio.

In an actual flight, Navy Cmdr. Malcolm D. Ross and Alfred H. Mikesell, a Naval Observatory astronomer, recently soared to an altitude of eight miles (40,000 feet) in an open gondola suspended from a balloon. The Navy said later the ascent provided the first test of techniques that some day will be used to record men's physical reactions in an orbiting satellite.

BACK FROM 'MOON' TRIP (lower left) -- Navy Chief Forrest V. Miller steps out of the simulated space ship at the Philadelphia Naval Base.

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DE VUELTA DE LA LUNA.- (Foto ~~larga~~ inferior izquierda).- El jefe de la Marina norteamericana Forrest V. Miller, sale de una simulada astronave en los Astilleros Navales de Filadelfia donde él y cinco compañeros más han realizado un "viaje a la luna", de siete días de duración. Miller fué el primero en embarcar y el primero en salir de la cámara experimental de vuelo, donde estos hombres pasaron la semana totalmente aislados del mundo exterior.

PESO.- (Foto superior).- Con un aspecto algo ceñudo, los seis voluntarios de la Marina norteamericana que realizaron un viaje simulado al espacio de siete días de duración, se alinean para comprobar el peso de cada uno, inmediatamente después de abandonar la cámara de vuelo. Regresaron con buena salud, y una ligera disminución de peso, pero todos estuvieron conformes en que el viaje fué muy aburrido cuando no tenían ~~que~~ nada que hacer. De izquierda a derecha: Thomas W. Hinsch, Charles H. Hayes, Ronald G. Campbell, Gene G. Medcalf, Meredith H. Radcliff y Forrest V. Miller.

VOLO SOLO.- (Fotografía inferior derecha).- El teniente de la Marina norteamericana Arthur F. Vohden, es ayudado al quitarse el traje especial para viajar por el espacio, después de terminar sus 20 horas y 20 minutos de "vuelo", solo, en una cámara especial. Vohden dijo a los periodistas en San Diego (California), cuando terminó el experimento, que estaba dispuesto para realizar un viaje a la luna.

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