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U.S. ASTRONAUTS UNDERGO JUNGLE SURVIVAL TRAINING IN CANAL ZONE

The 16 U.S. astronauts recently completed a three-day jungle survival training course in the Canal Zone. The course was designed to prepare them in the event they should land in such terrain when returning from some future space mission. The astronauts were dropped in the jungle by helicopter and had to find their own way out. They built their own shelters, made rafts, found edible jungle food and tested signaling equipment. They were armed with machetes and dressed in boots and long underwear, garb normally worn under pressurized space suits. H. Morgan Smith, chief of the Caribbean Air Command Survival School, reported that the astronauts found the machetes indispensable tools in the jungle. As a result, he said, a machete probably will be added to their space flight survival kits.

JUNGLE HAMMOCK -- Astronauts Charles Conrad and L. Gordon Cooper examine an improvised hammock as the 16 U.S. astronauts underwent jungle survival training in the Canal Zone. (63-2909)



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