

MAY 4 1960

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Picture Story No. 625

SPACE-FLIGHT SAFETY SUBJECT IN U.S. RESEARCH

Manned space flight is the goal of Project Mercury in the United States, but no astronaut will be launched into orbit until research and testing indicate that he can return safely to earth. Seven Mercury astronauts now are in training, and scientists are exploring every conceivable measure to safeguard them throughout space flights, from launching to recovery. This set of photographs shows some of the measures being studied to protect an astronaut during descent from space, which will be a critical period of his flight.

6-9 A test device that simulates the roll, pitch and yaw of a capsule in orbital flight is being used to train U.S. Mercury astronauts. The cage-like spinning device, known as a multiple axis test inertia facility (MASTIF), with a mock-up of a Mercury capsule (center) is designed to teach an astronaut to operate mechanisms for controlling the altitude of the capsule as it circles the earth and for establishing the proper angle to fire retro-rockets for the return to earth. (60-1168) (See also 60-1169)



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SCIENCE - ASTRONAUTICS (PROJECT MERCURY)