Simulating Space A Space Training History

Frank Hughes

Training

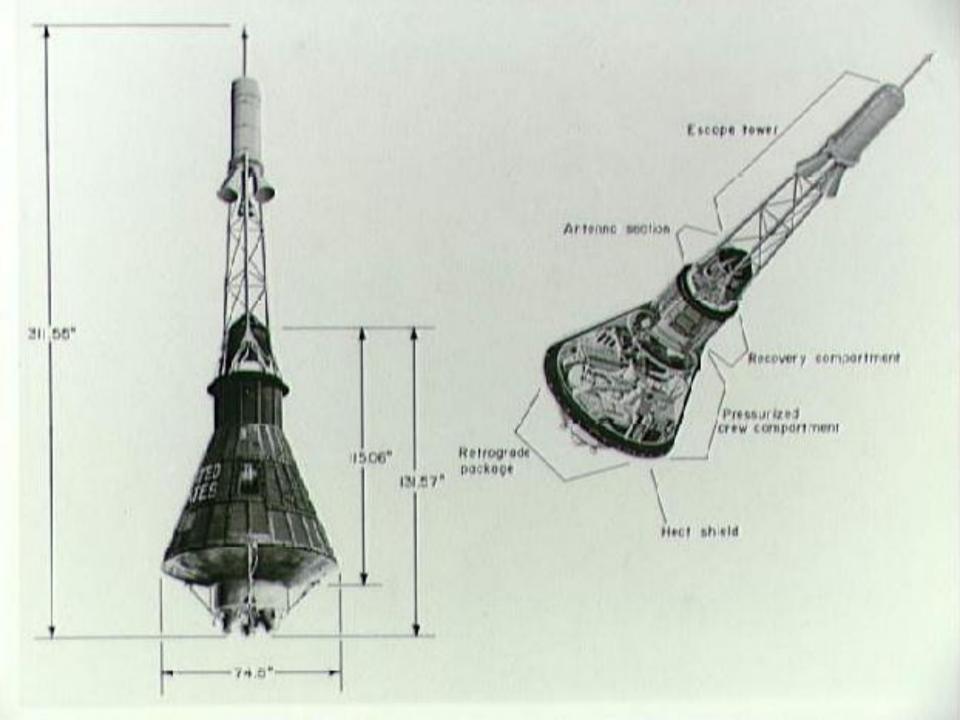
- In 1958, NASA was formed from parts of many agencies:
 - NACA
 - Army
 - Navy
 - Air Force
 - Coast Guard
- Training was occurring in all of these organizations and at many locations

Training

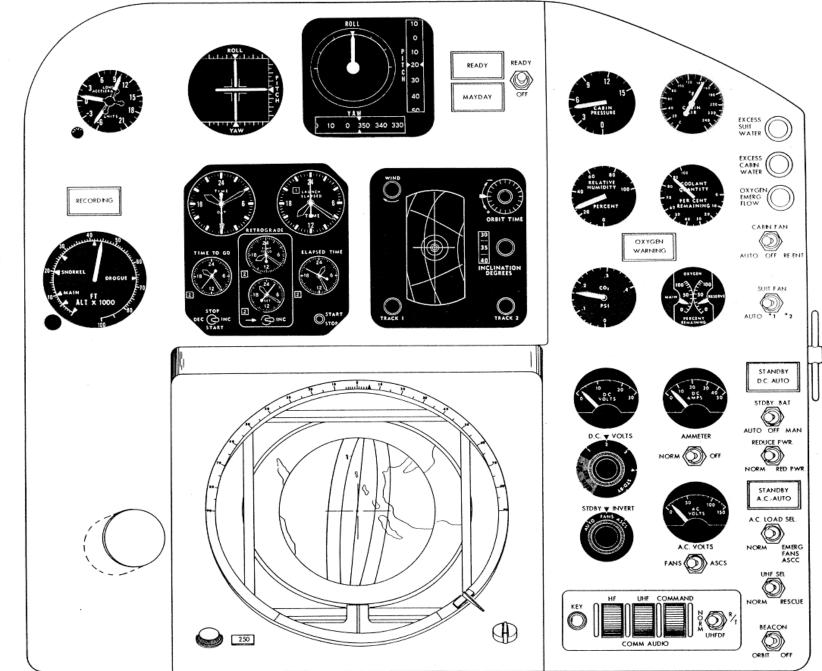
- Definition of training:
 - An activity leading to skilled behavior or
 - The acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies as a result of the teaching of vocational or practical skills
- At the time, when the National Space Act was passed and NASA was formed, no one knew:
 - What the skills would be needed to fly in space
 - What knowledge would be needed to fly in space
 - What attitudes would be needed to safely fly in space
- This created a unique dynamic situation

Mercury

- Initiated in 1958, completed in 1963, Project Mercury was the United States' first man-in-space program
- The objectives of the program, which made six manned flights from 1961 to 1963, were specific:
 - To orbit a manned spacecraft around Earth
 - To investigate man's ability to function in space
 - To recover both man and spacecraft safely.

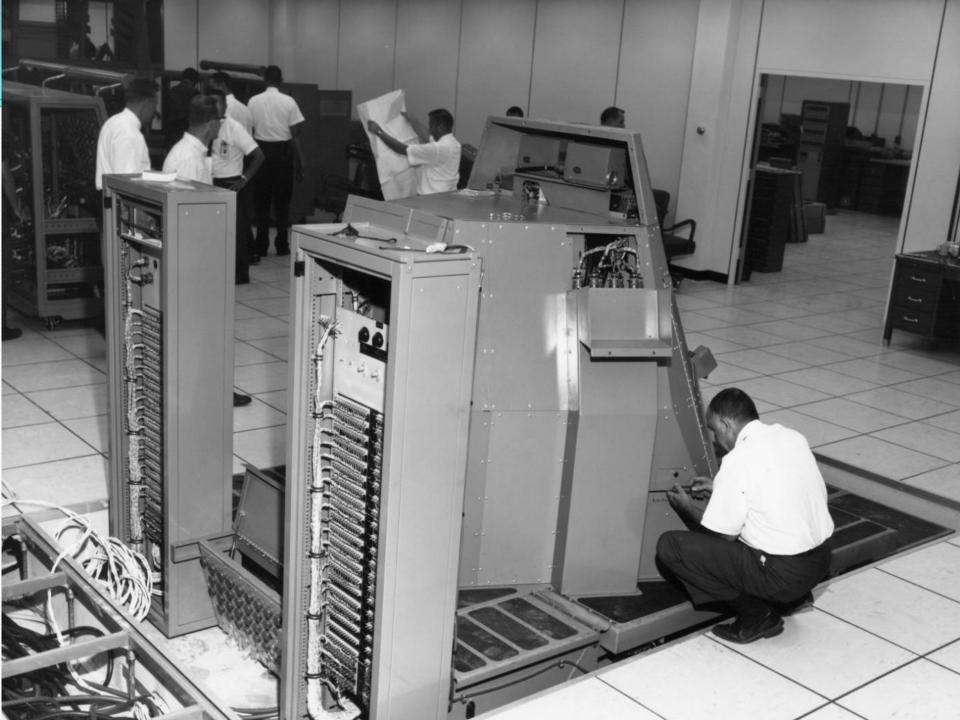


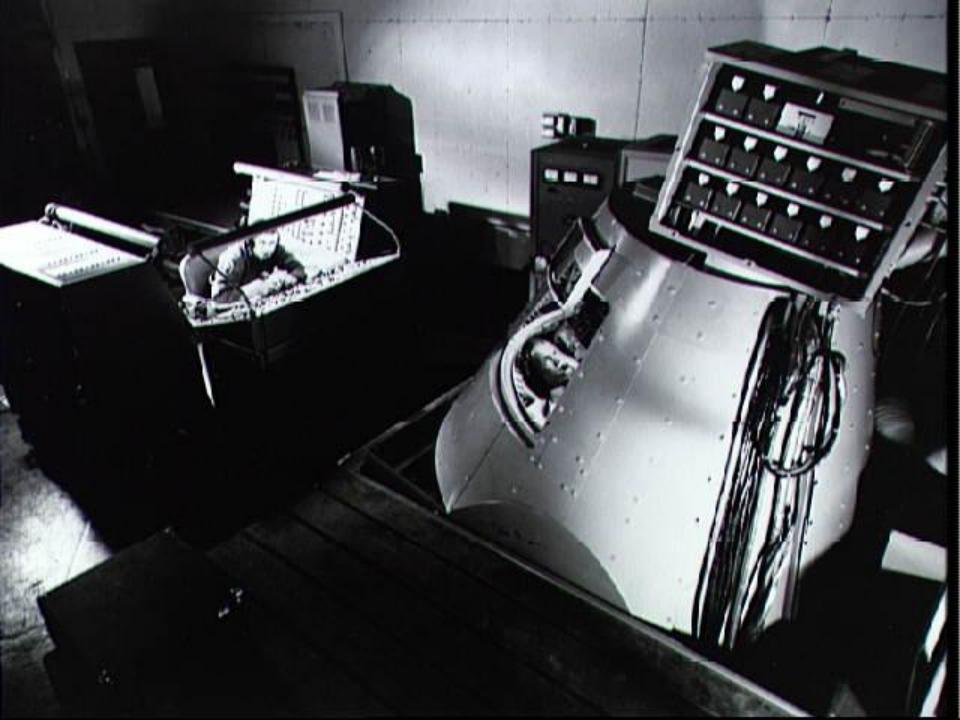
MAIN INSTRUMENT PANEL



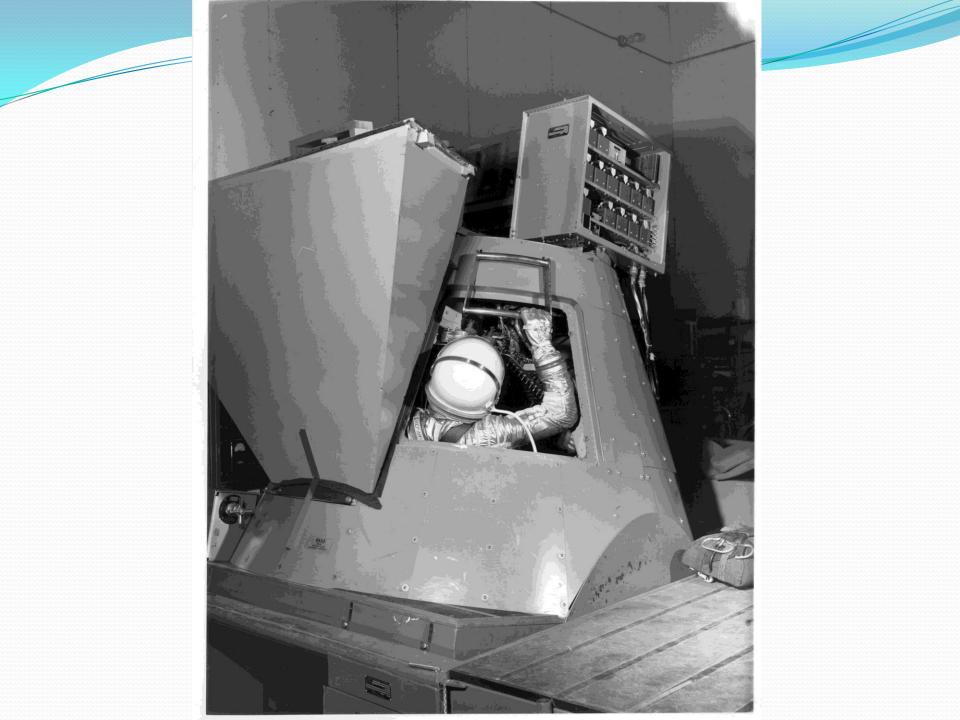
Mercury Systems

- Less than 50 switches and controls
- No on-board computer, rate gyros for stabilization
- RCS for rotation, no translation capability
- Three solid rockets for retrofire
- Environmental control good for ~48 hours
- Training:
 - Mercury Procedures Trainer in St. Louis and at MCC-Cape
 - Analog host computers only

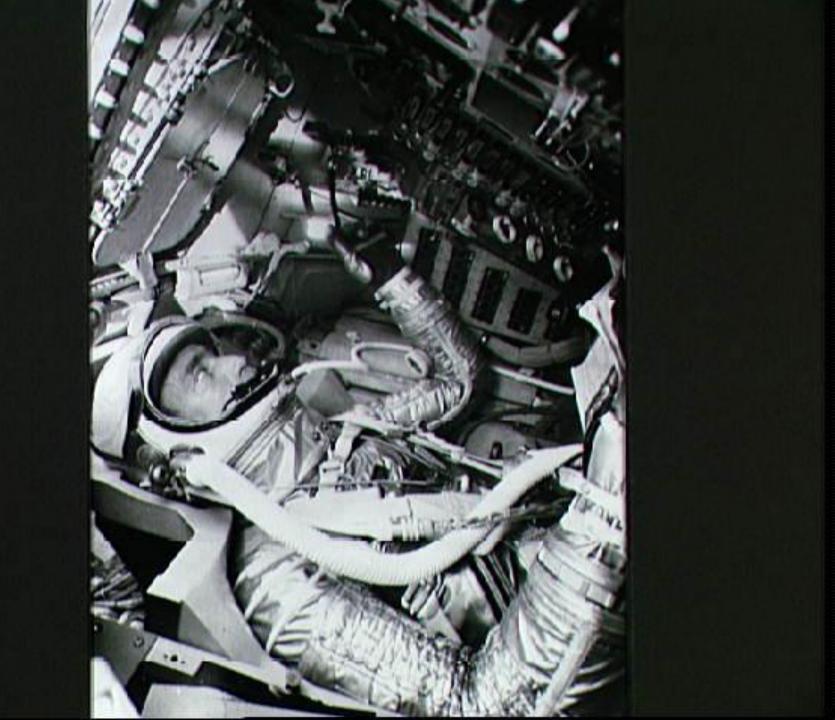






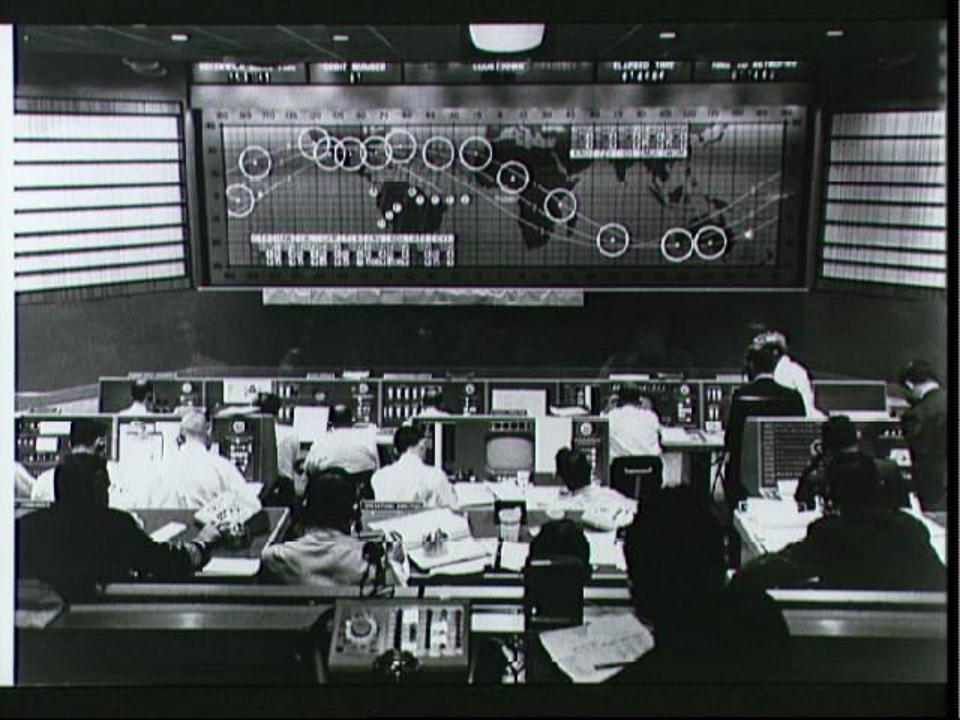












What did we learn?

- Man can work and live in space
- Prepare for flight using simulators is realistic
- Crew can see and acquire photographic and other data from orbit
- Save and ration your fuel

Gemini

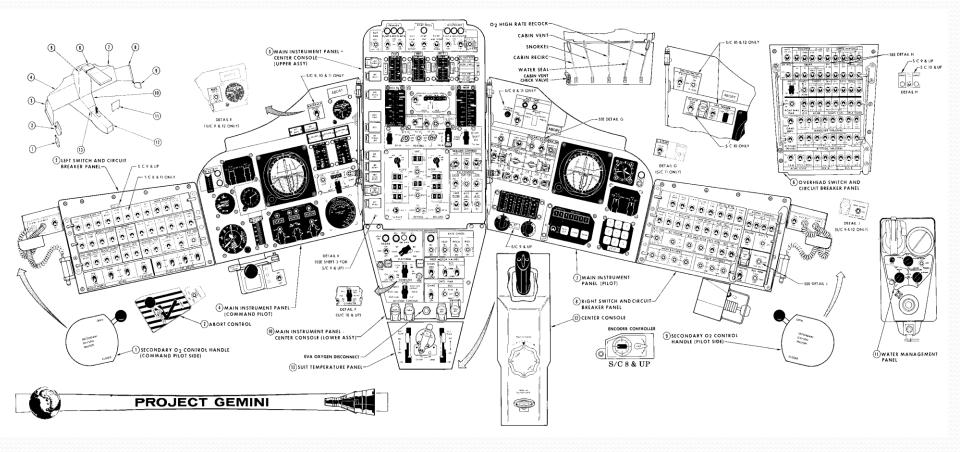
• Goals

- To subject man and equipment to space flight up to two weeks in duration.
- To rendezvous and dock with orbiting vehicles and to maneuver the docked combination by using the target vehicle's propulsion system;
- To perfect methods of entering the atmosphere and landing at a preselected point on land

Gemini Systems

- Two person spacecraft that flew 10 manned missions between 1965 and 1966
- Digital computer onboard with 4K memory could compute and display rendezvous solutions
- Stabilization and control system with rate gyros
- Full rotation and translation capability on-orbit
- Environmental control good for more than 14 days
- Two fuel cells for electric power
- ~200 switches & controls

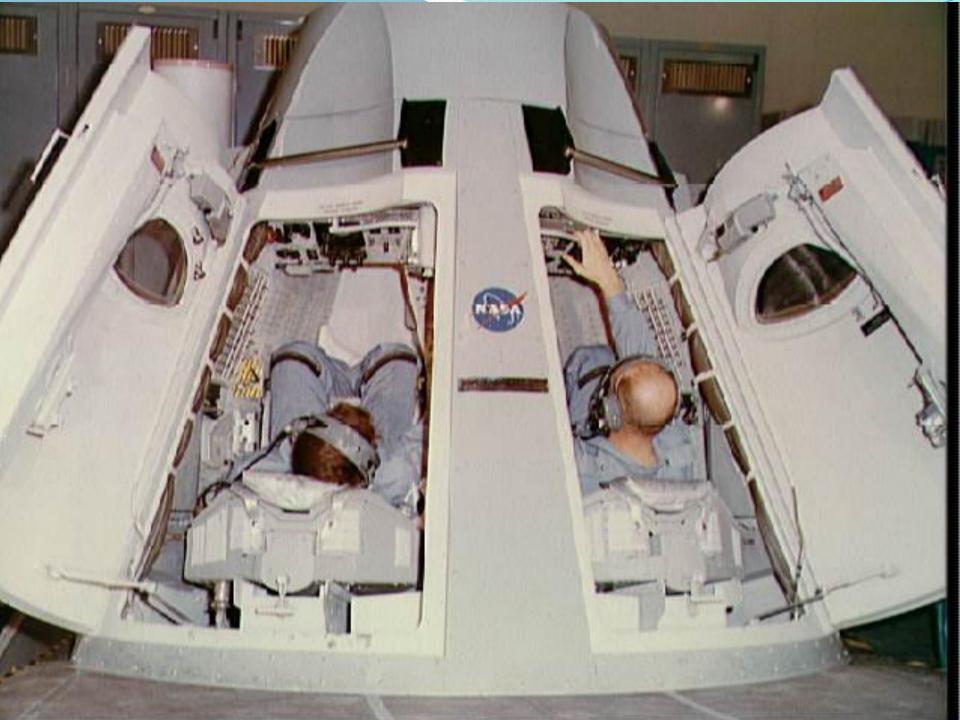
Gemini displays



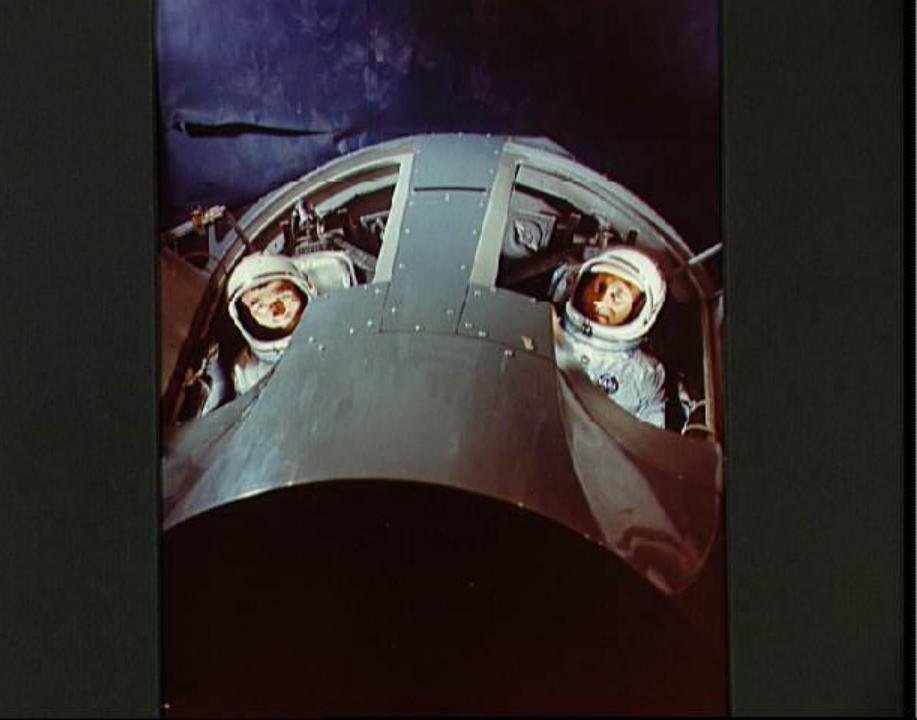






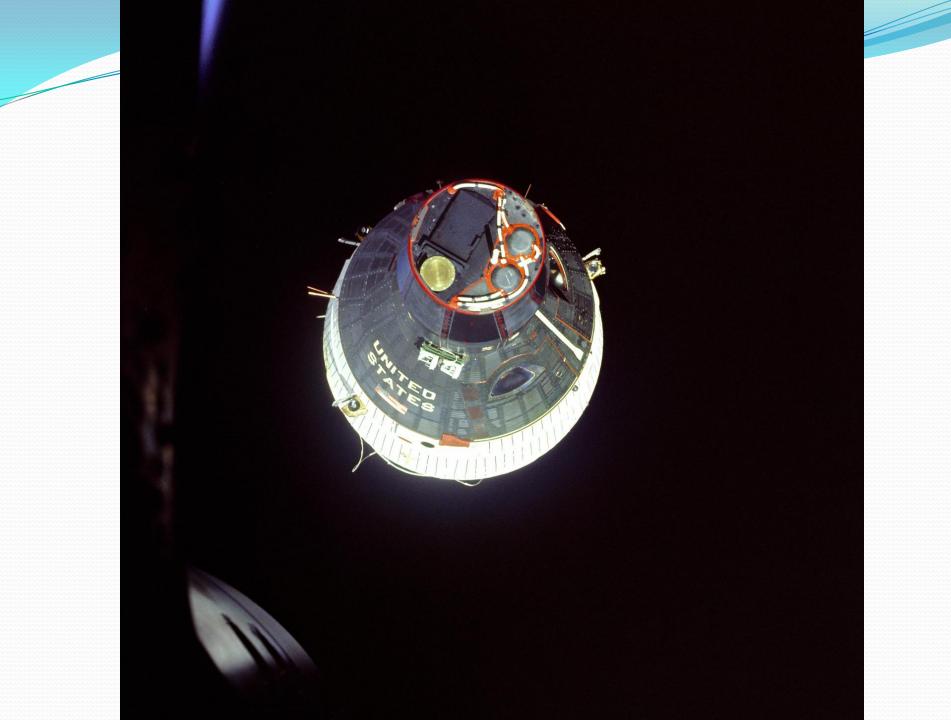


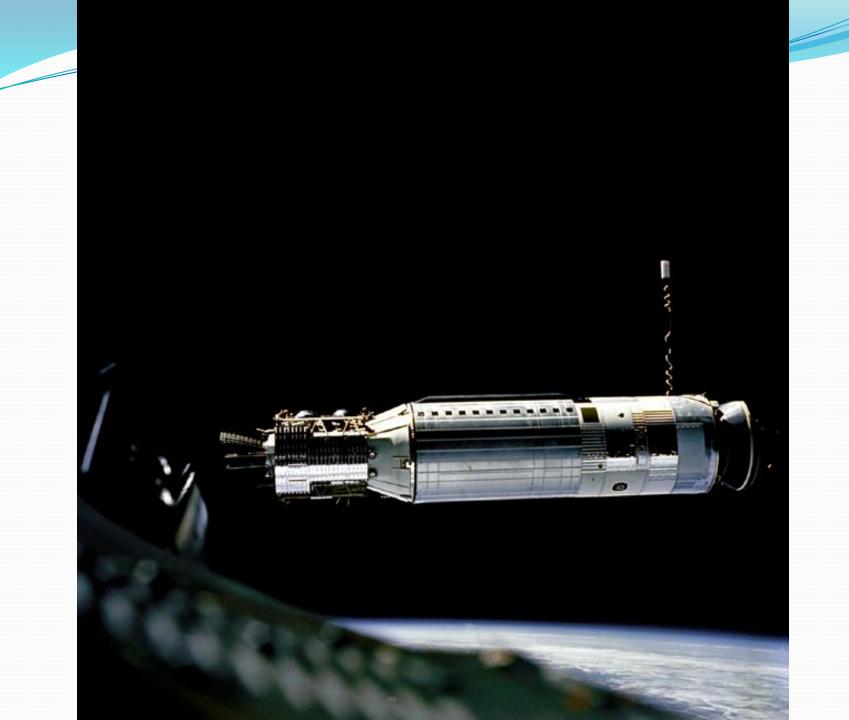


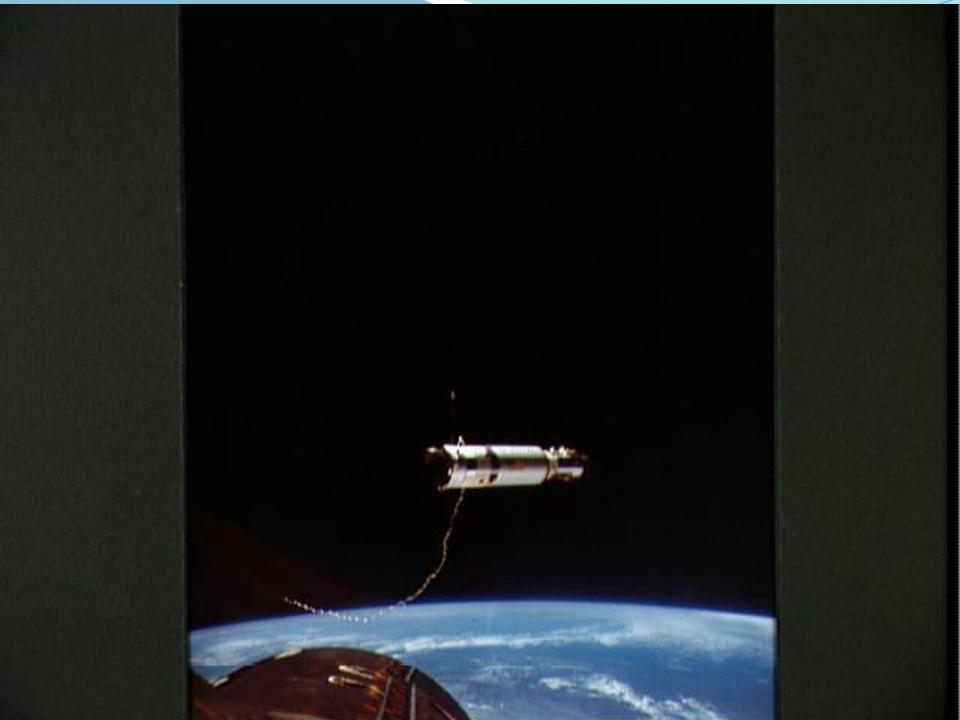














What did we learn?

- That rendezvous was relatively easy, done properly
- That docking and station keeping was easy once you understood the physics
- That saving fuel was a life saver
- That people could live and work in space up to 14 days
- That EVA was complicated but finally good planning and training make it much easier
- That tethered operations could save fuel (useful for space elevators in the future)

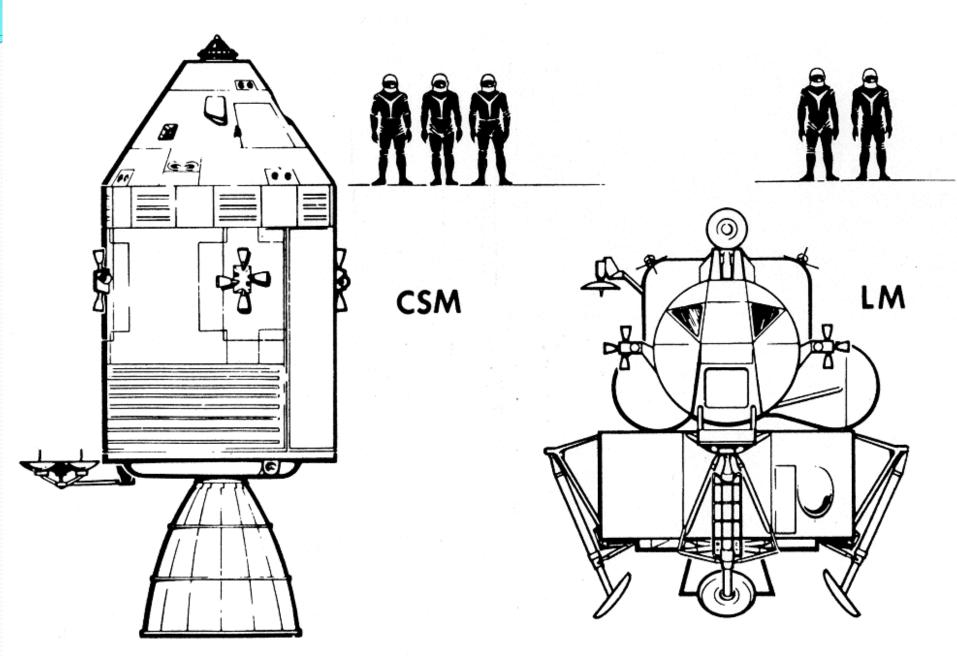
Apollo

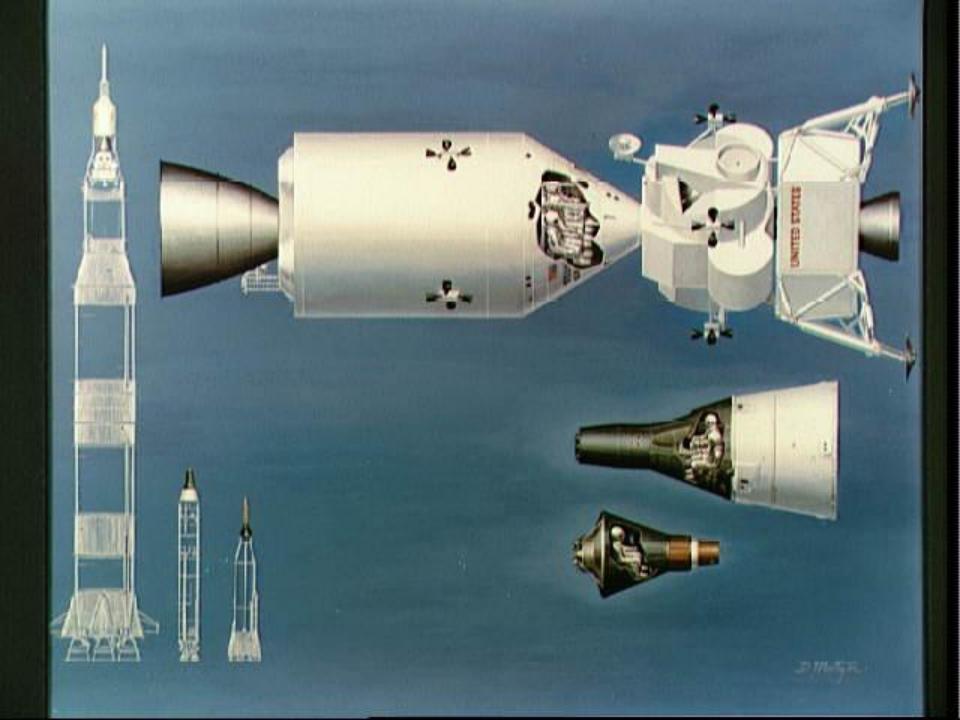
- Goals:
- Apollo's goals went beyond landing Americans on the Moon and returning them safely to Earth:
 - To establish the technology to meet other national interests in space.
 - To achieve preeminence in space for the United States.
 - To carry out a program of scientific exploration of the Moon.
 - To develop man's capability to work in the lunar environment.

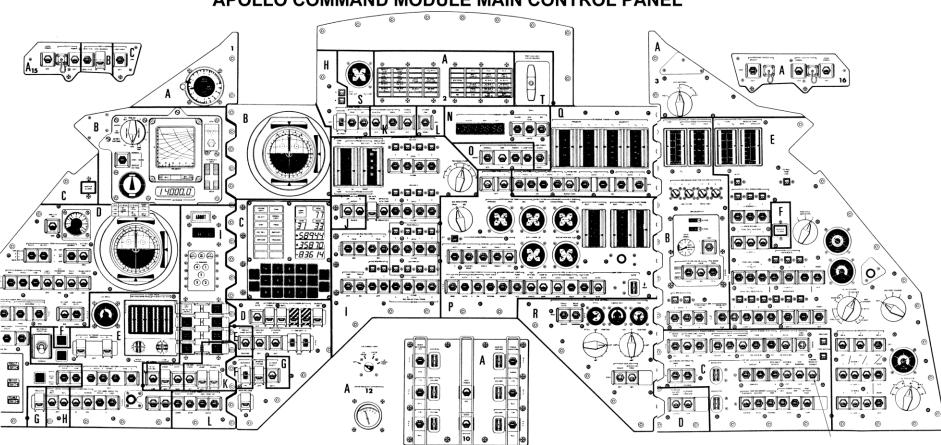
Apollo Systems

- Two vehicles Command Service Module (CSM) and Lunar Module (LM) that flew 11 manned missions between 1968 and 1972
 - Same digital computer in each vehicle (Delco) 36K memory
 - Environmental system good for more than 14 days, more sophisticated
 - Three fuel cells
 - RCS on Service Module, Command Module (for entry) and Lunar Module
 - Large (21,000 lb) engine on CSM to get in and out of lunar orbit
 - Engines on LM ascent and descent stage
 - 350 switches/controls in CM; 200 in LM

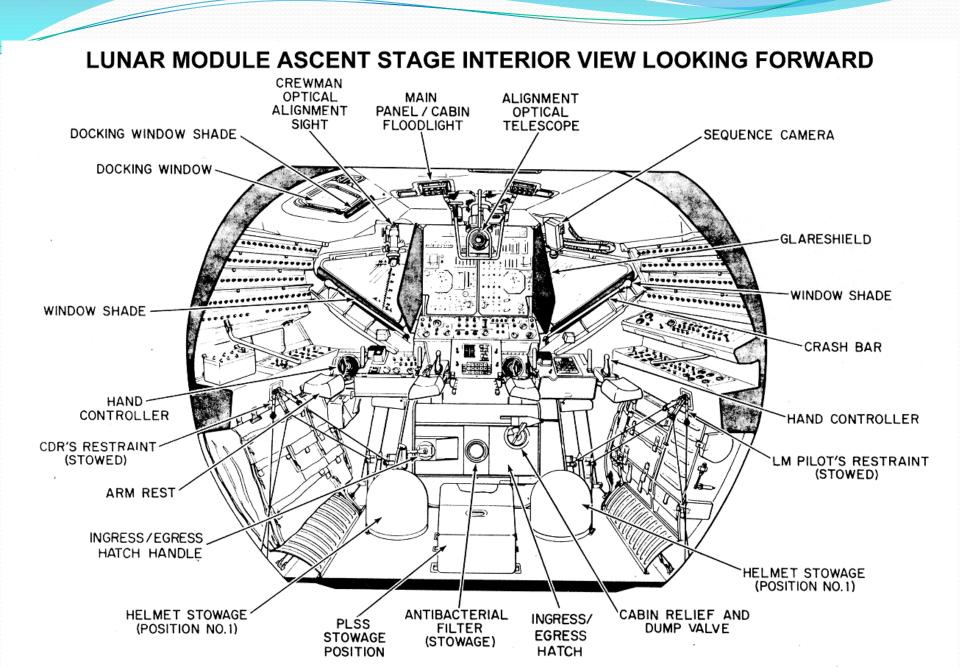
APOLLO CSM & LM COMPARISON



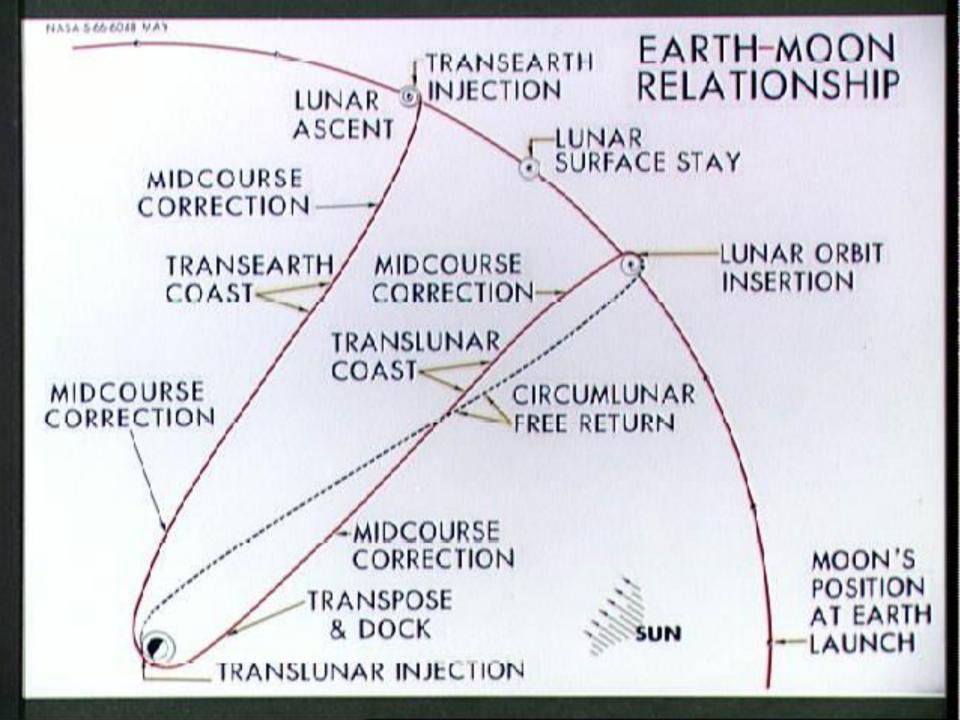


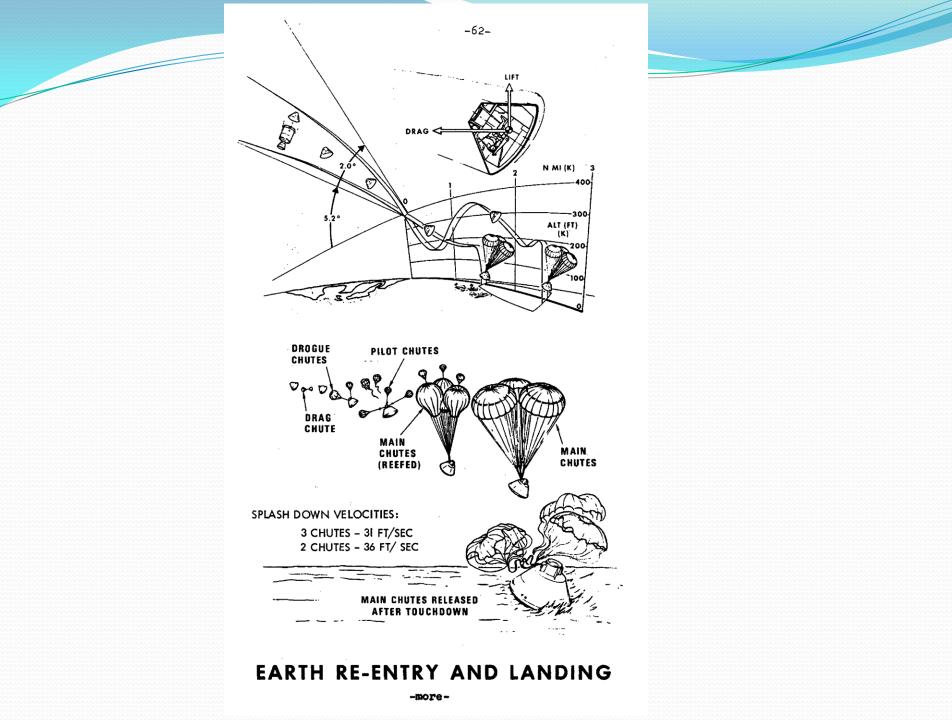


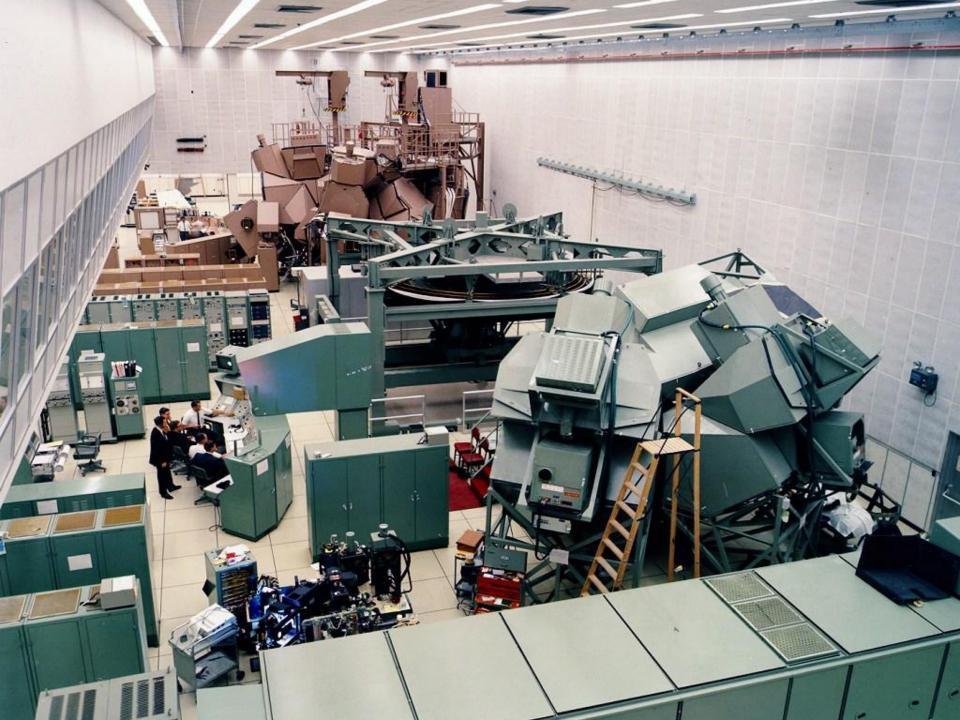
APOLLO COMMAND MODULE MAIN CONTROL PANEL





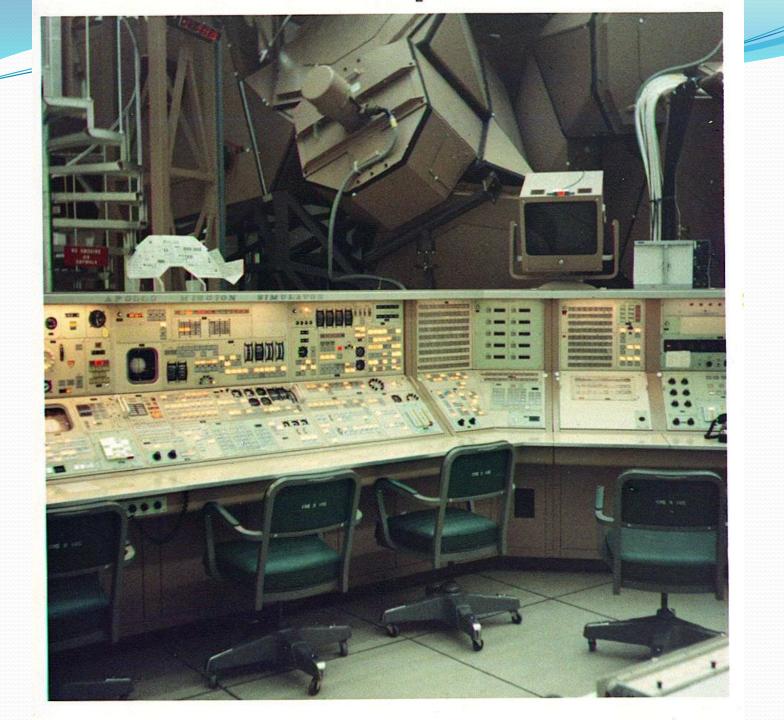






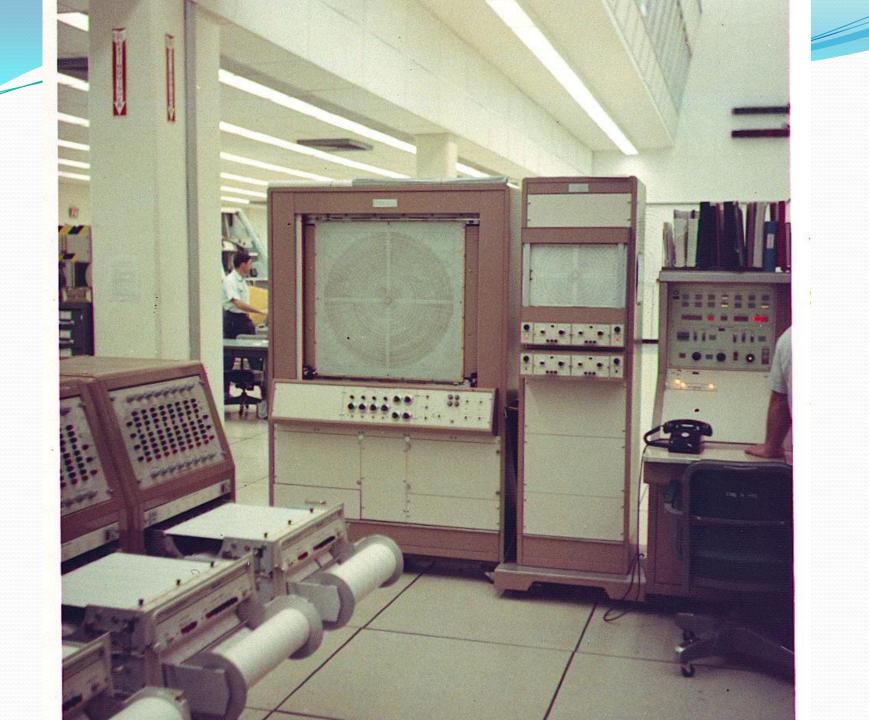




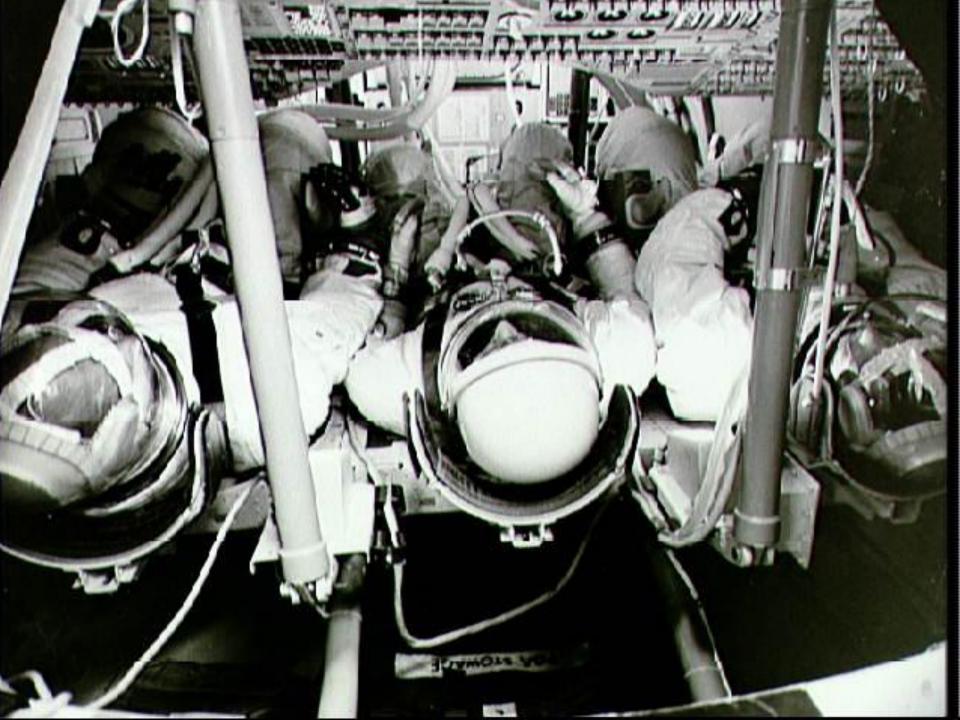




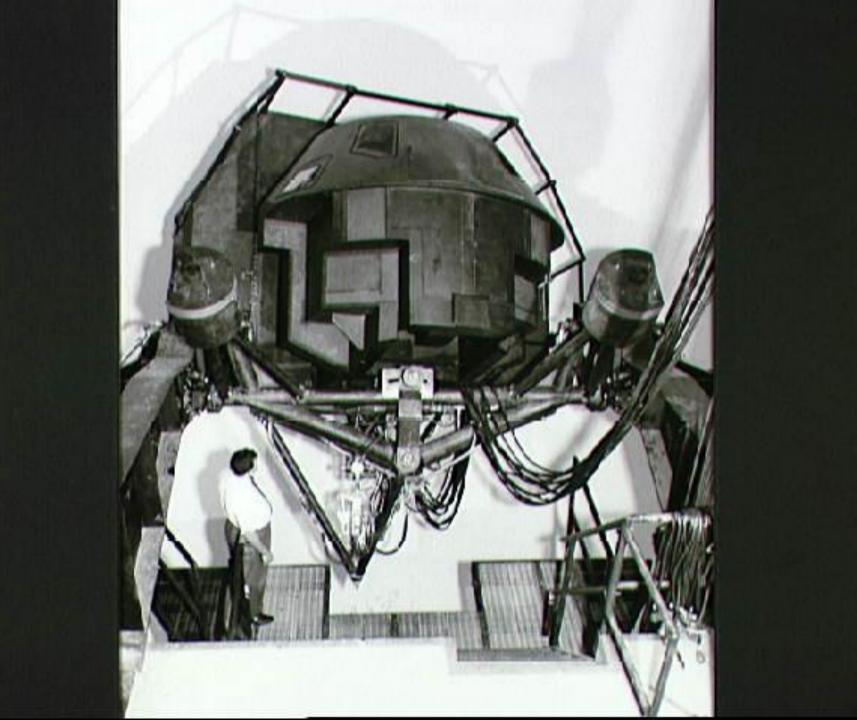










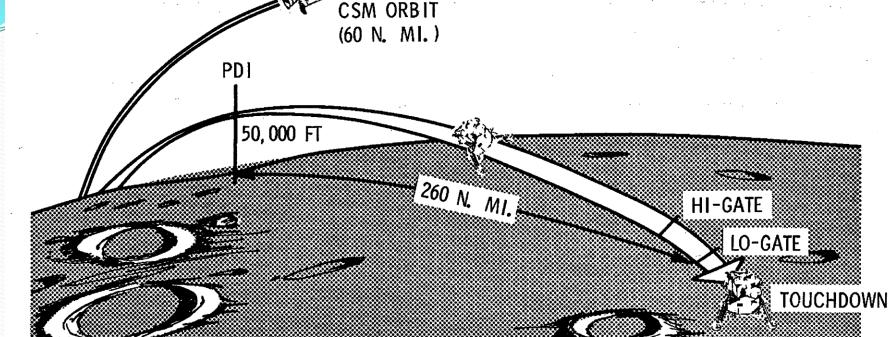






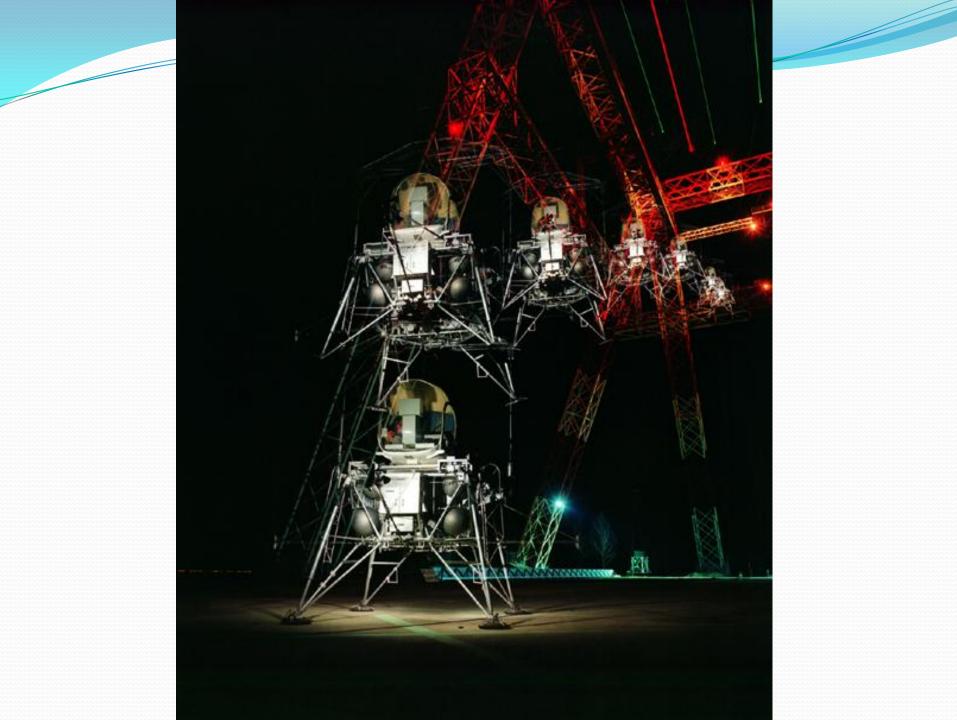
PERATIONAL PHASES OF POWERED DESCENT

- LANDING PHASE (LO-GATE TO TOUCHDOWN) MANUAL CONTROL TAKEOVER
- FINAL APPROACH PHASE (HI-GATE TO LO-GATE) CREW VISIBILITY (SAFETY OF FIIGHT AND SITE ASSESSMENT)
- BRAKING PHASE (PD) TO HI-GATE) EFFICIENT REDUCTION OF ORBITAL VELOCITY
- DESIGN CRITERIA

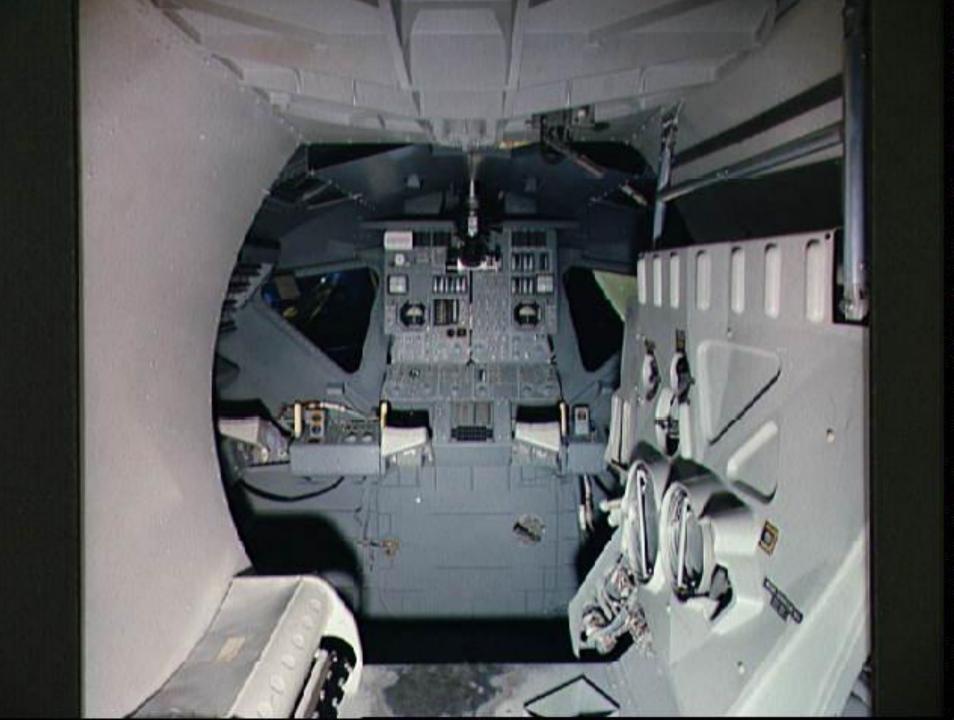


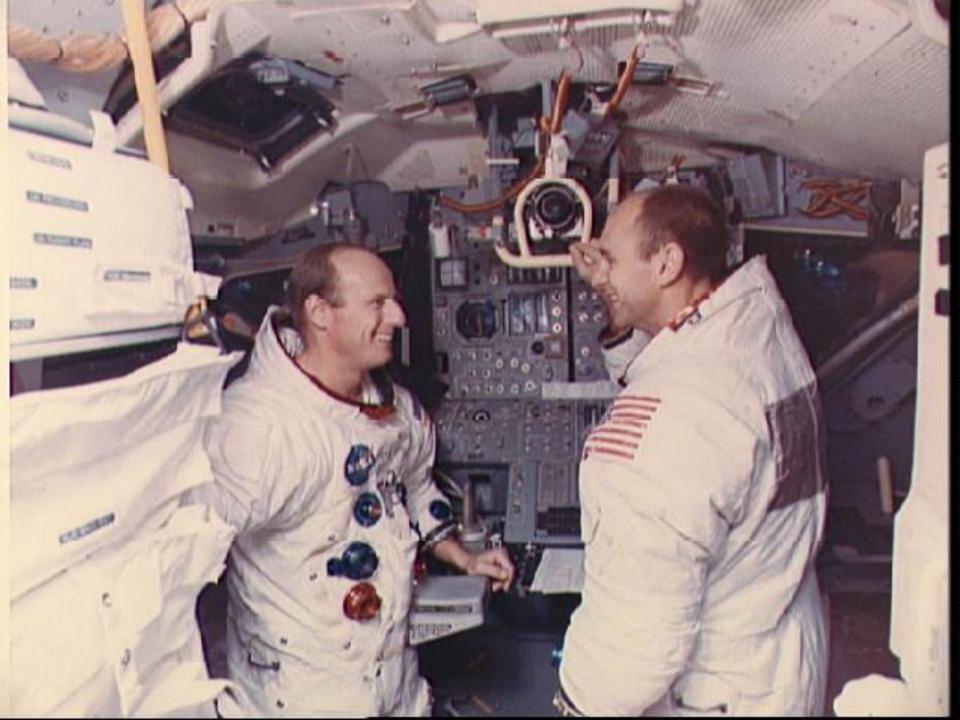
END OF BRAKING PHASE VISIBILITY PHASE LANDING PHASE 570 LUNAR VERTICAL HORIZONTAL VELOCITY THRUST 5,600 LB 27 FPS THRUST 6,000 LB 800 LANDING RADAR LANDING RADAR POSITION NO. 1 THRUST POSITION NO. 2 2,800 LB 200 TO 75 FT 10,000 FT 9,680 FT TO TOUCHDOWN 3,000 FT 500 FT VERTICAL VELOCITY 27 TO 3 FPS VERTICAL VELOCITY 3.5 FPS LUNAR SURFACE – 2000 FT 🕂 NAUTICAL MILES NOMINAL DESCENT TRAJECTORY

FROM HIGH GATE TO TOUCHDOWN

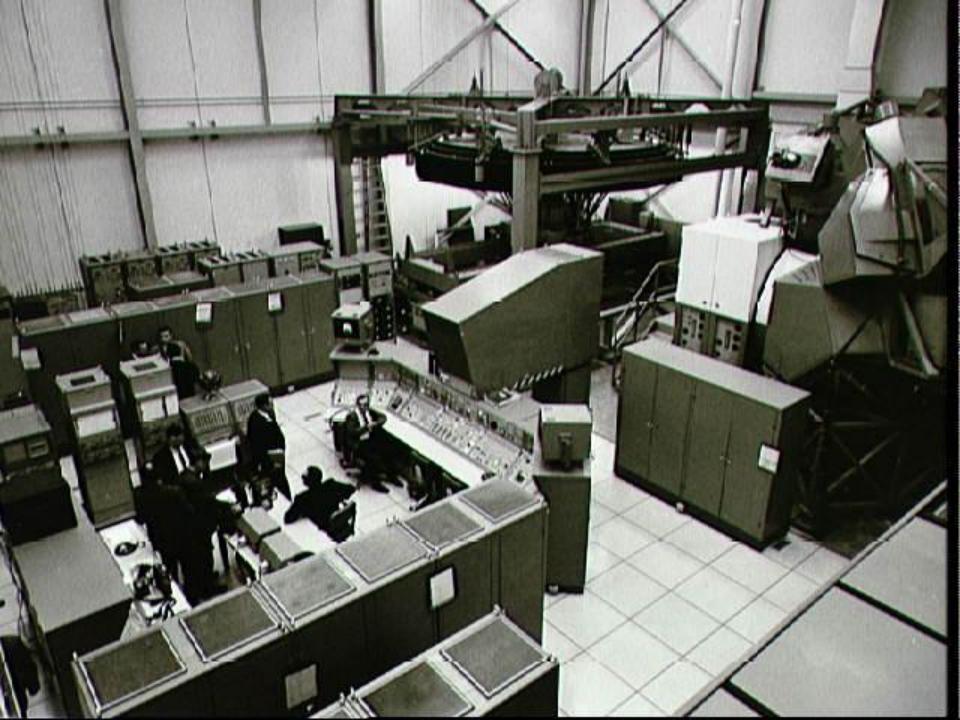






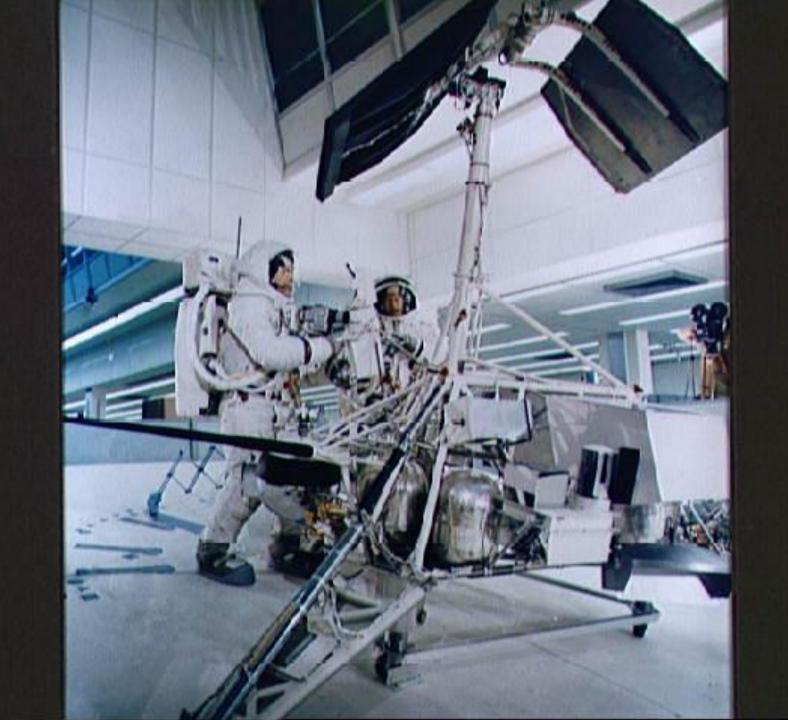


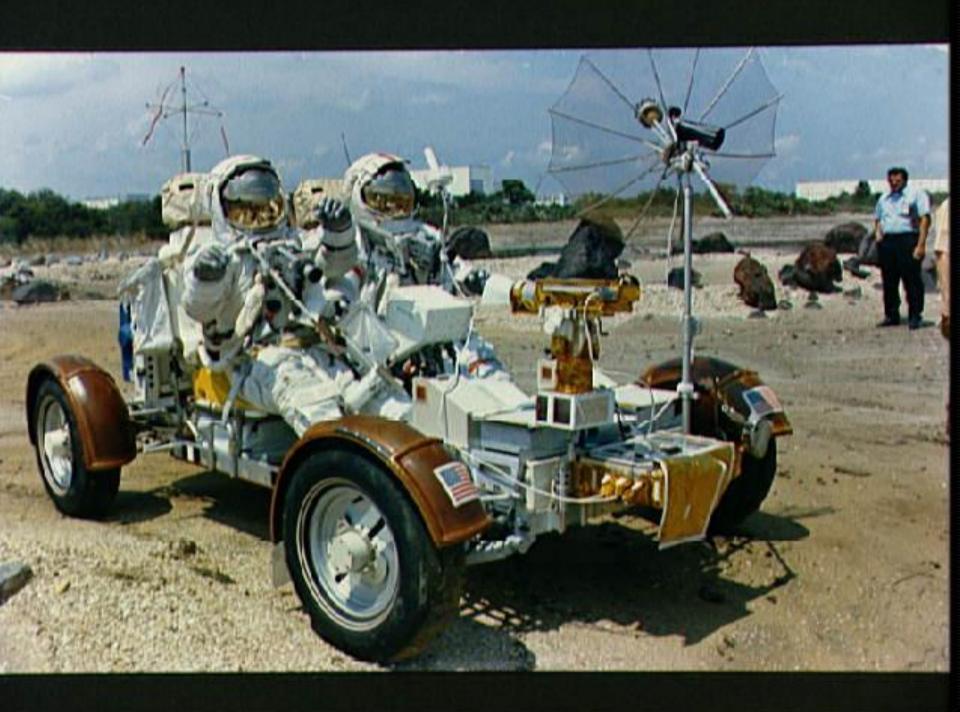






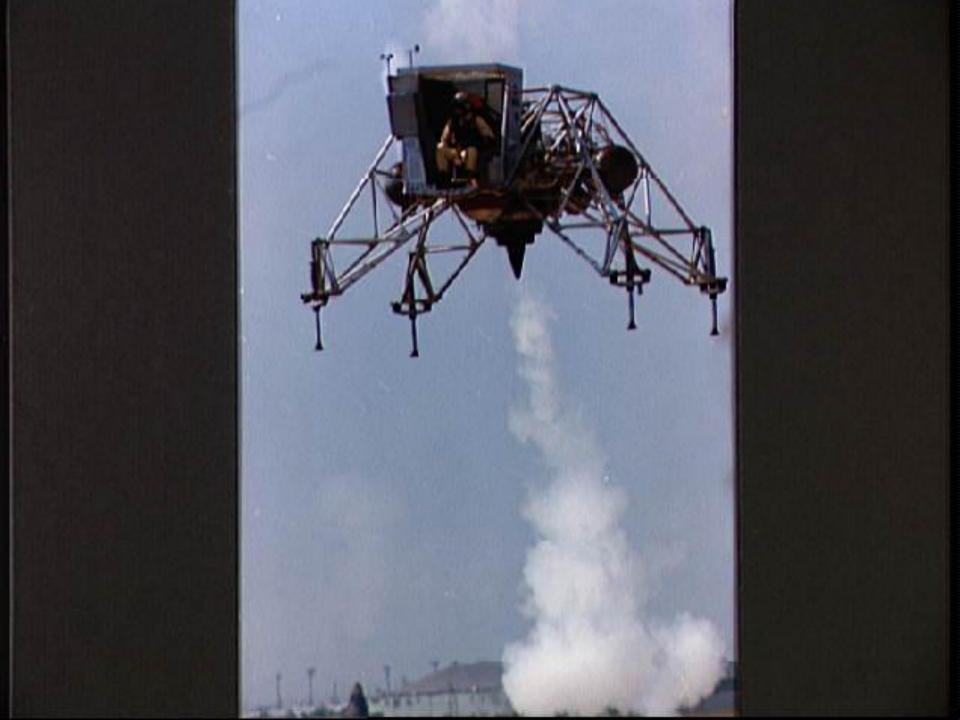


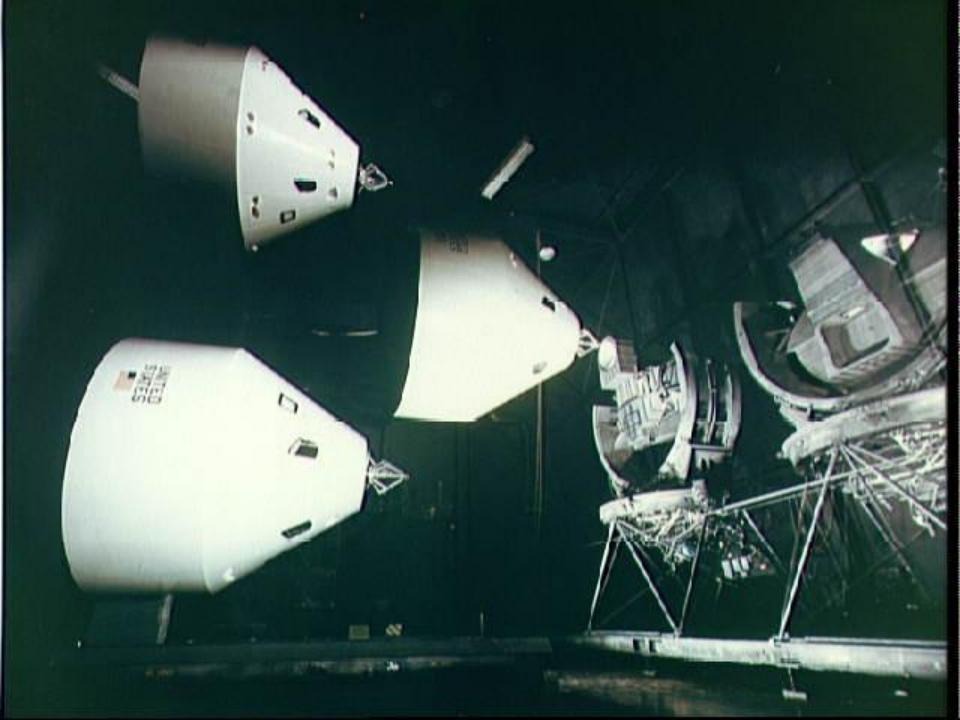








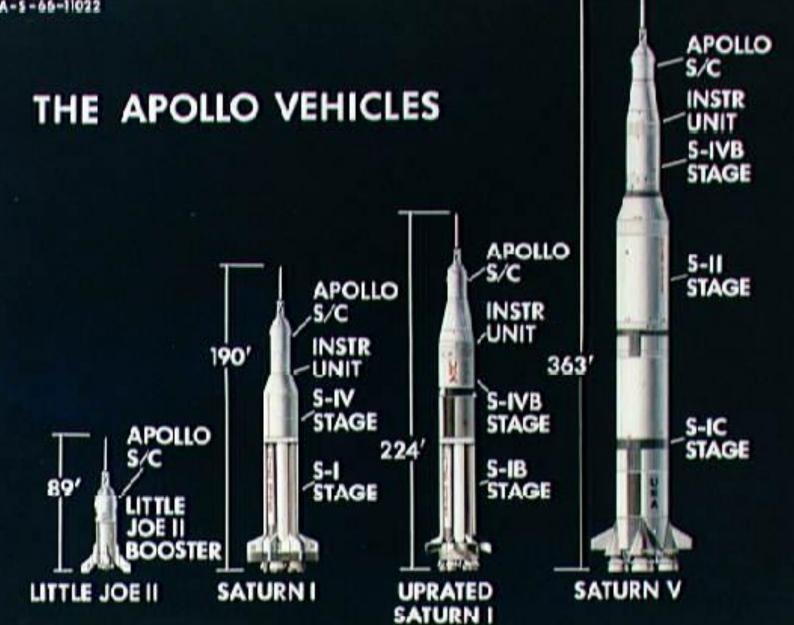




What did we learn?

- Guidance and navigation between planets was understood and operationally easy
- Landing on the moon was straight forward with manual controls available
- Lunar surface EVA was OK but suit balance was critical and EVA gloves were a continuing problem
- We felt that we could go back to the Moon and land anywhere with our capabilities
- We could go anywhere else...











Skylab (Apollo Applications)

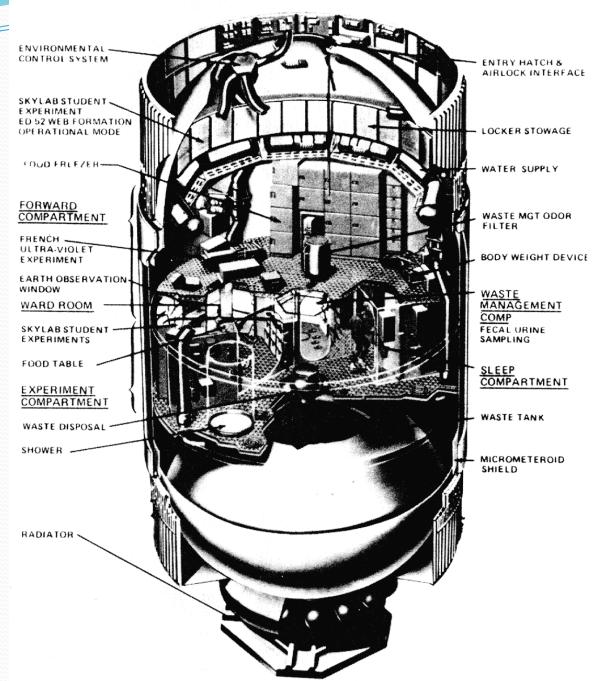
Goals

- To prove that humans could live and work in space for extended periods
- To expand our knowledge of solar astronomy well beyond Earth-based observations
- It was the site of nearly 300 scientific and technical experiments:
 - medical experiments on humans' adaptability to zero gravity
 - solar observations
 - detailed Earth resources experiments

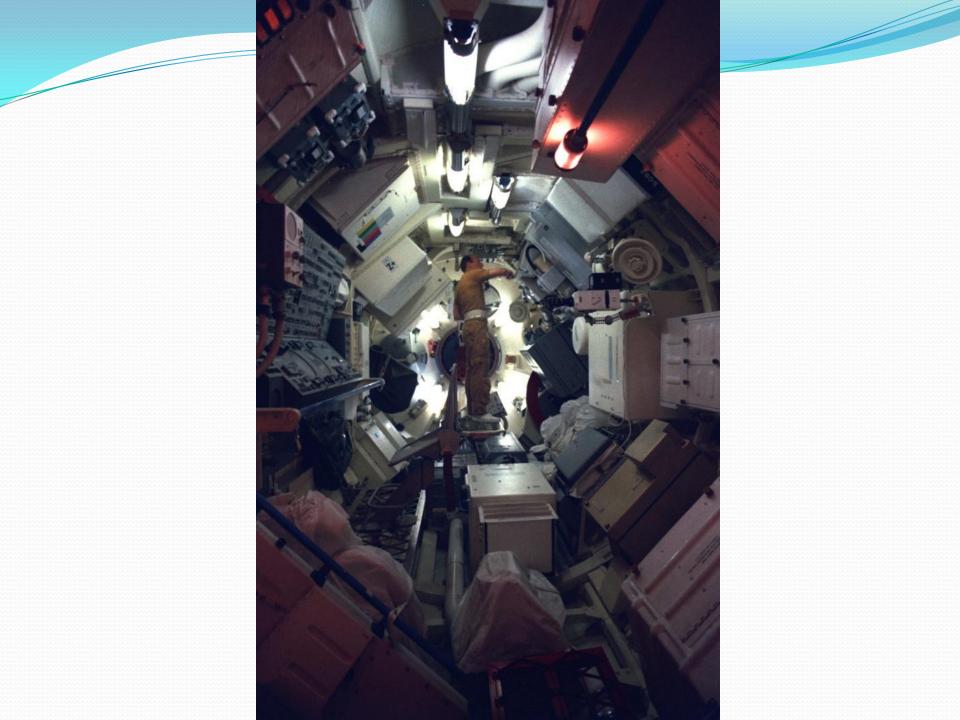
Skylab Systems

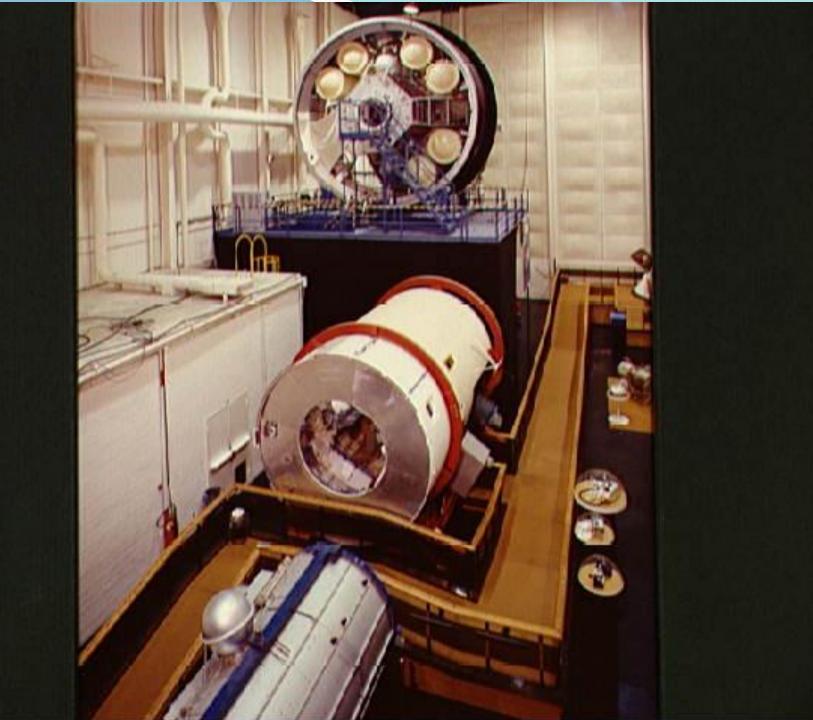
- Build a laboratory inside a surplus S-IVB from Saturn 5¹3
- Flew three manned crews in 1973-1974 on 28, 59, and 84 days
- Performed mammoth amounts of science, engineering and medical studies
- Featured the first private bathroom and toilet

SKYLAB ORBITAL WORKSHOP













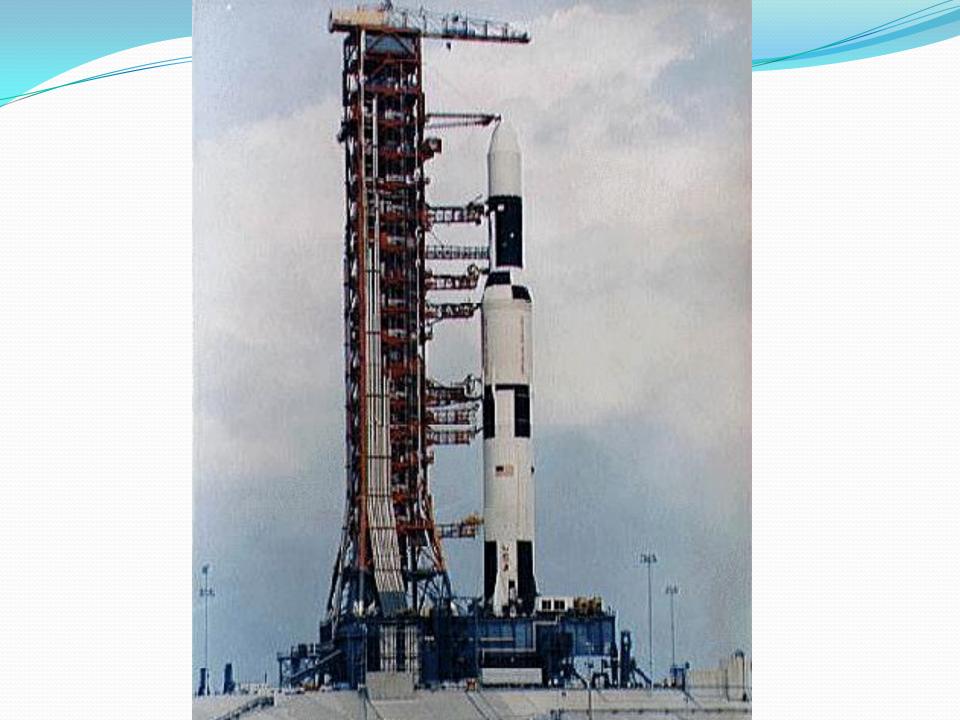


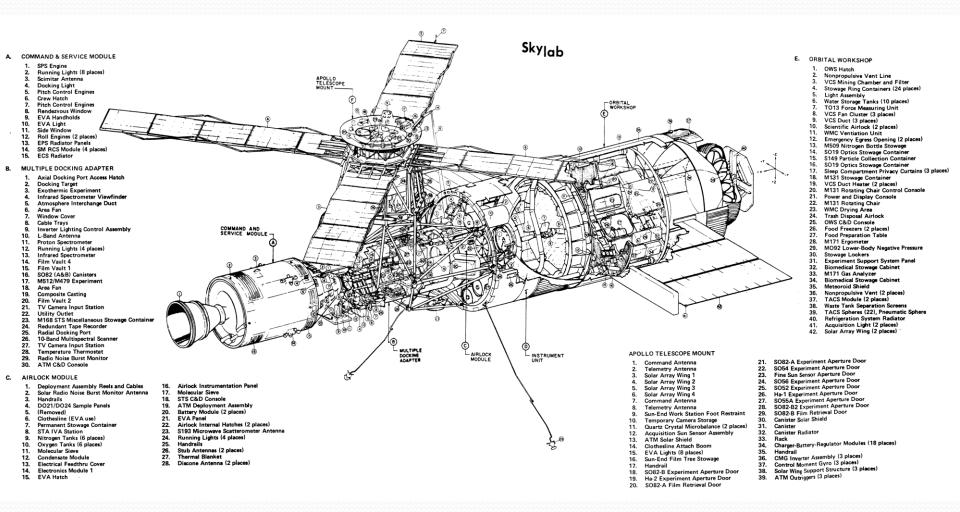








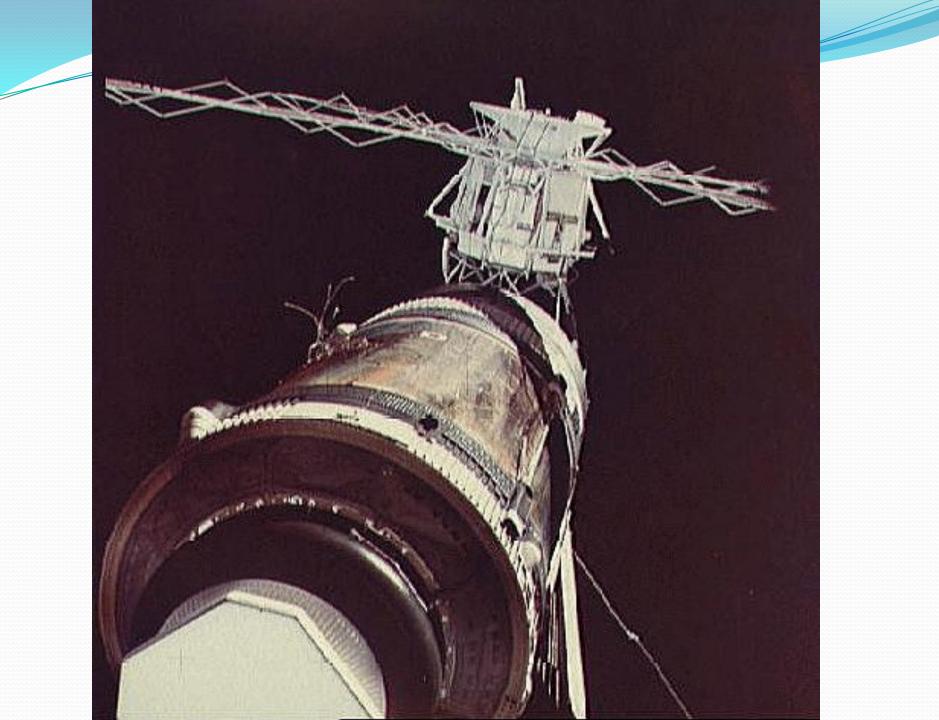




NASA-5-71-163-X

SKYLAB SATURN IB LAUNCH CONFIGURATION COMPLEX 39B





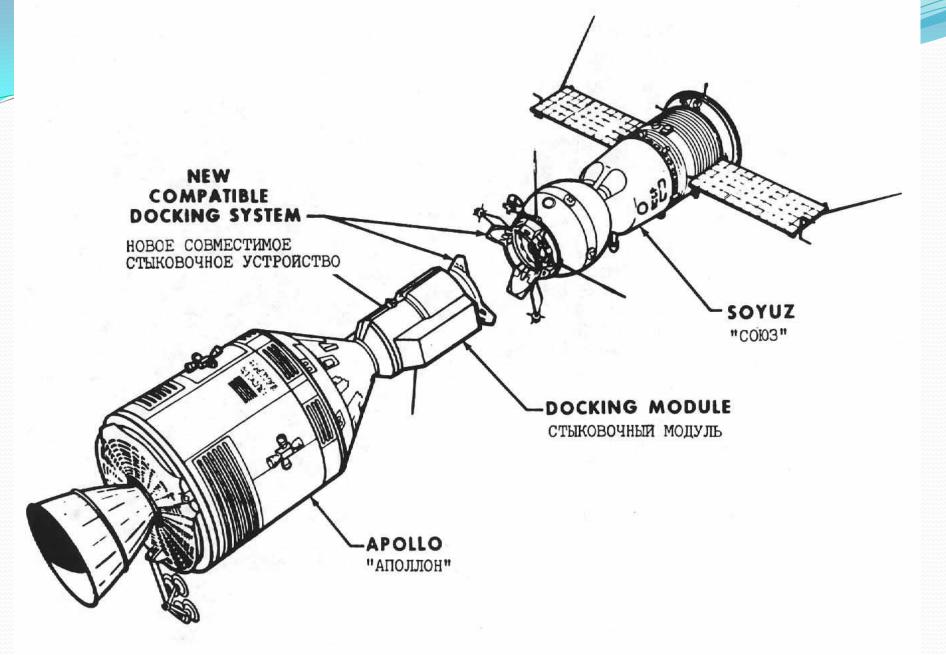


What did we learn?

- Space adaptation syndrome was a real problem in larger spaces
- Maintenance and repair of space vehicles during flight is possible and should be planned
- Could train crews in a simulator that did not look exactly like the vehicle (part task training)
- Realized that only time critical events needed repetitive training, other tasks could be trained in a more relaxed environment
- Timelines need to allow the crew to set their own pace and have "job jars" for tasks that they might do when they have time

Apollo – Soyuz Test Project

- A détente between the USSR and the US allowed President Nixon and President Brezhnev to sign a protocol to plan and fly a joint mission
- The mission occurred in July 1975
- Successfully showed that an androgynous docking system is possible and that space rescue can be accomplished



- Apollo-Soyuz Rendezvous and Docking Test project

ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛУНЫЙ ПРОЕКТ ВСТРЕЧИ И СТЫКОВКИ КОСМИЧЕСКИХ КОРАЕЛЕЙ













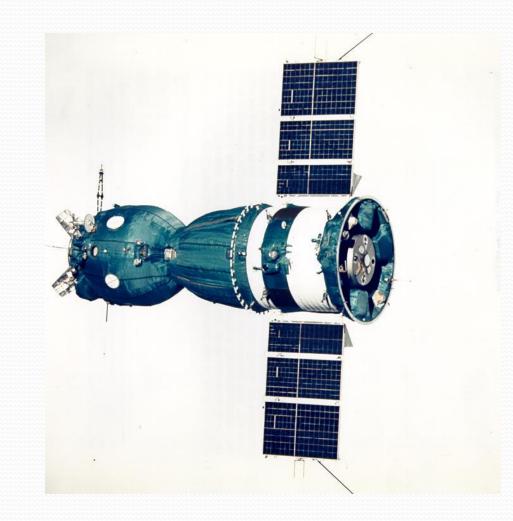












What did we learn?

- Space rescue should be possible for all flights and all countries
- Training with
 - two languages
 - two training philosophies
 - two sets of training hardware is difficult and the time required expands
- How to pick out the KGB agents from the real scientists and engineers

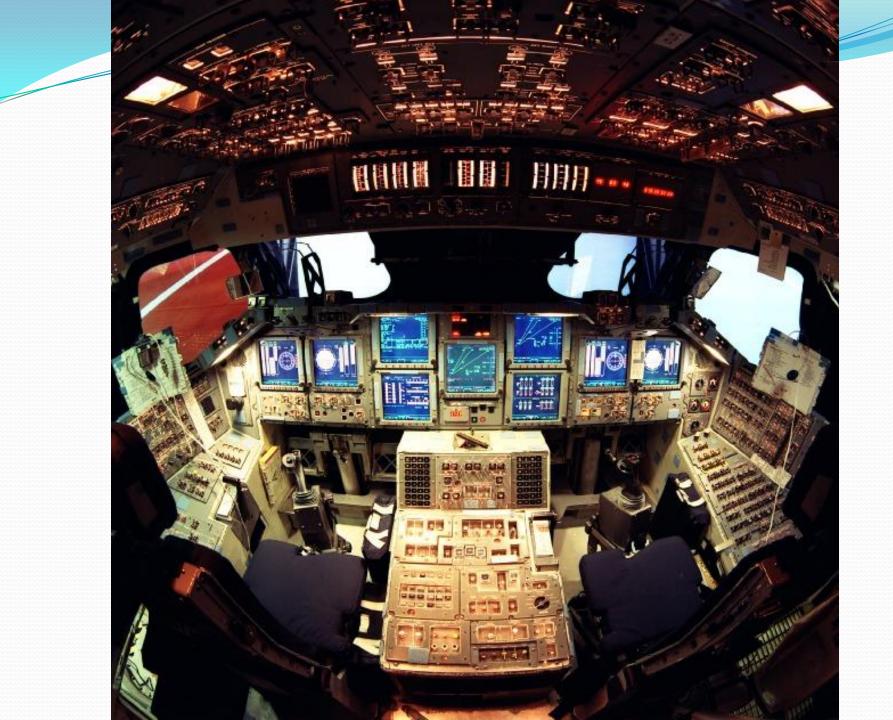
The Space Transportation System

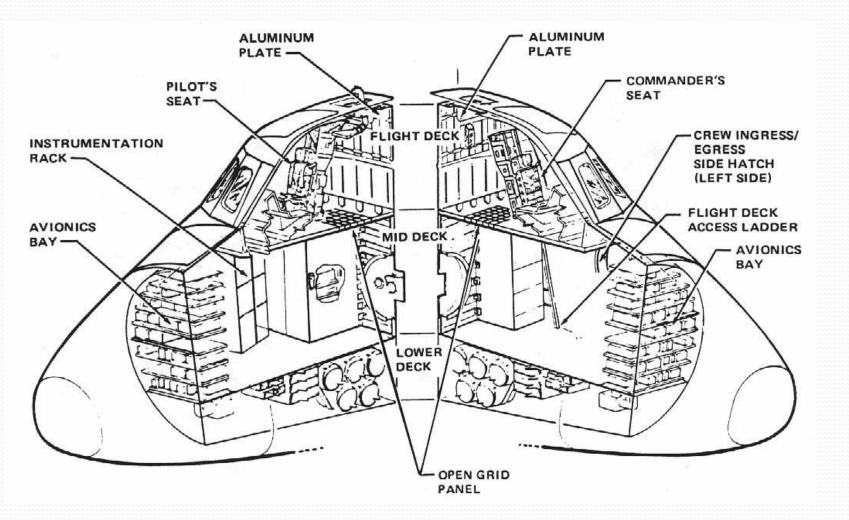
Space Transportation Goals

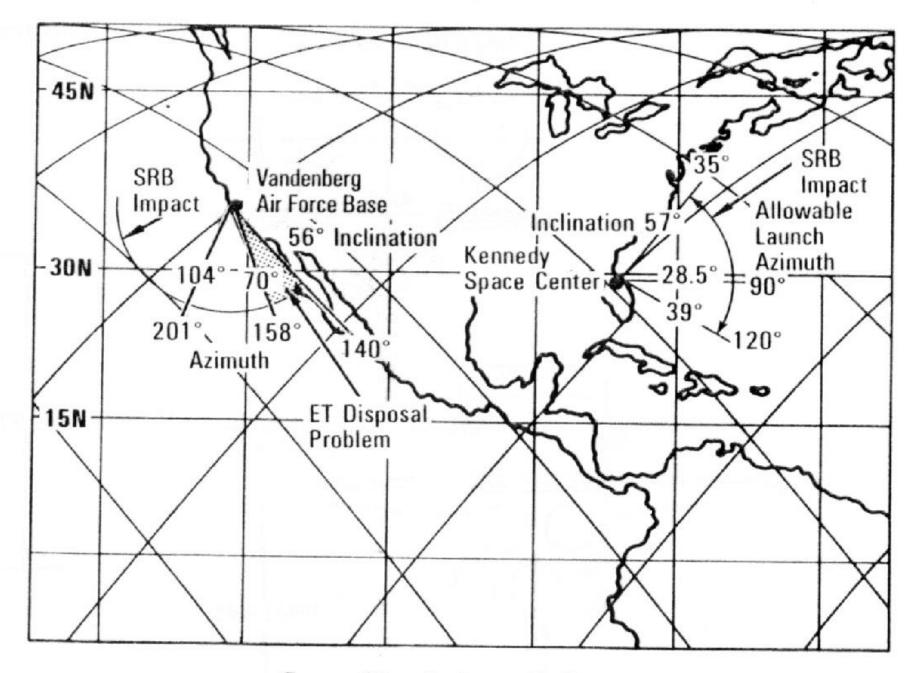
- To create a reusable spacecraft
- To move cargo from the earth to orbit cheaper and more reliably
- To increase the creature comforts for the space crews
- To create the infrastructure to build a station and go further from the Earth

Space Shuttle Systems

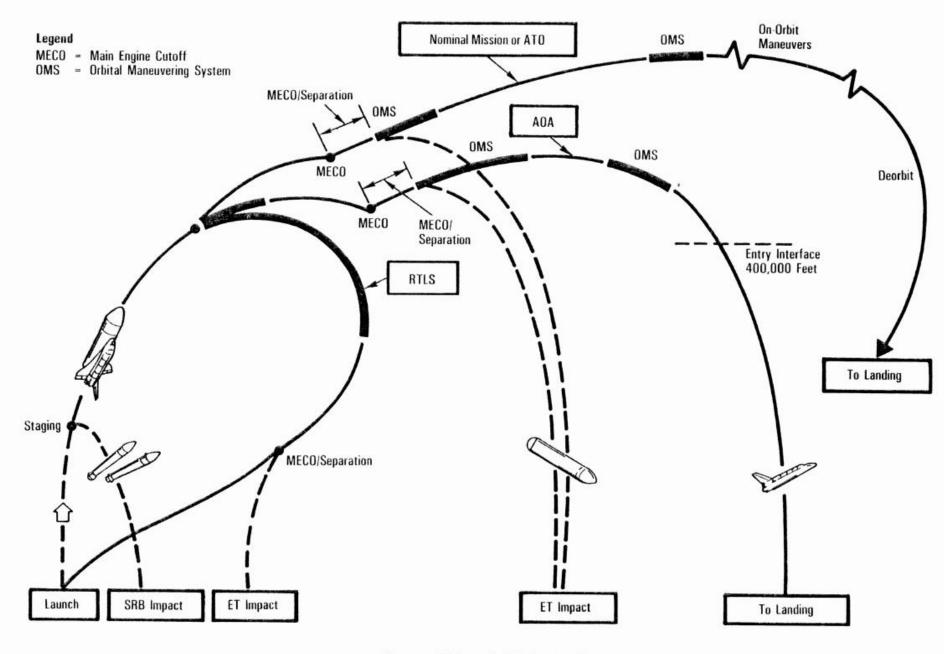
- Five digital computers forming a primary set and a single backup set of software
- A fly-by-wire system to control the spacecraft
- Three fuel cells and environmental control that evolved over time to the best system that had flown up to that time
- Hydraulics required to operate the control systems (rudders, elevons, engine actuators)
- Advanced Hydrogen/Oxygen main engines
- Reusable heat resistant tiles rather than single use heat shields to save money





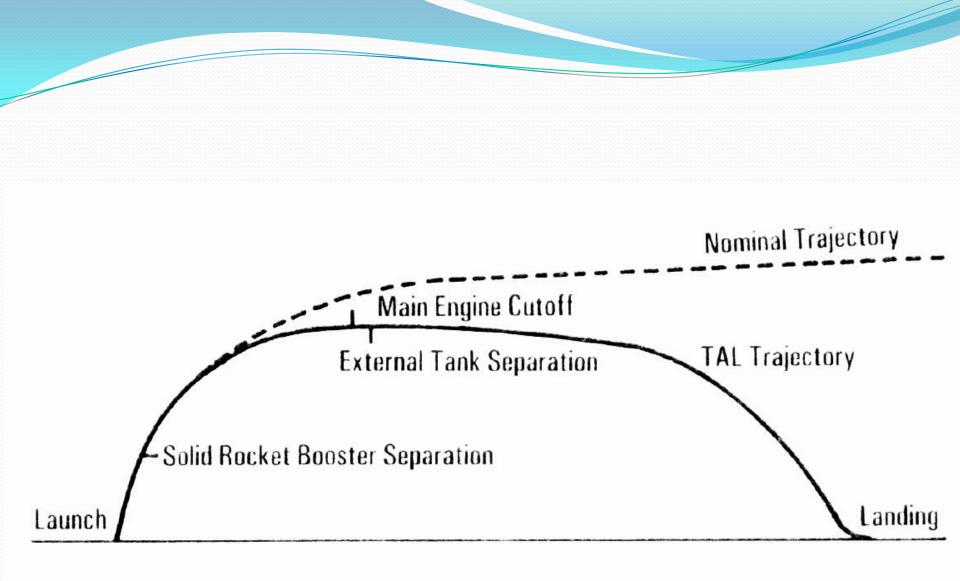


Space Shuttle Launch Sites



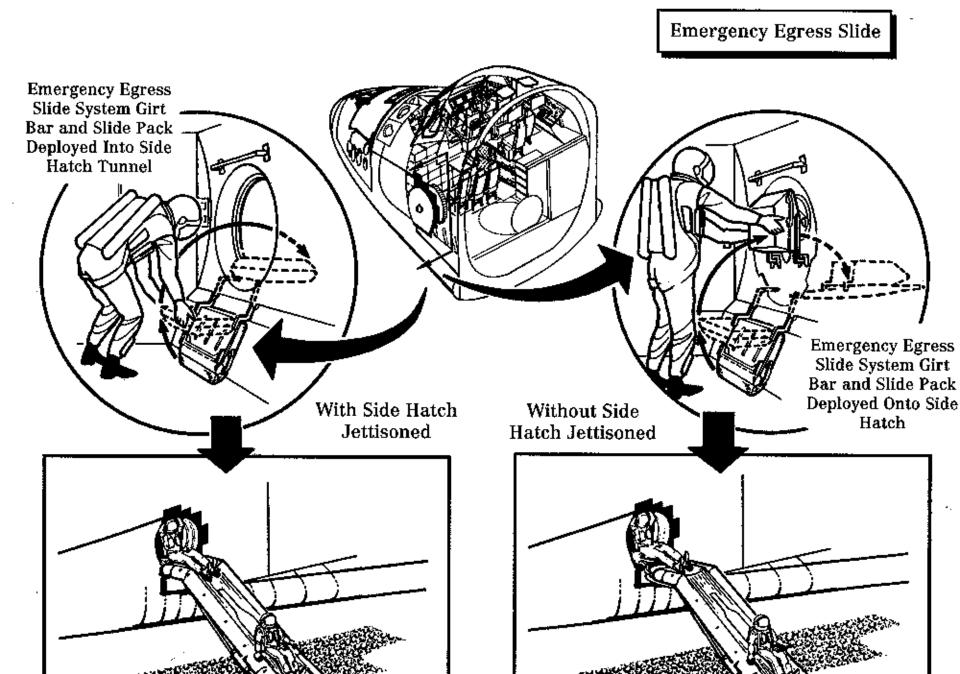
Abort and Normal Mission Profile

3.



Transatlantic Landing Abort Option

CREW GROUND ESCAPE SYSTEMS









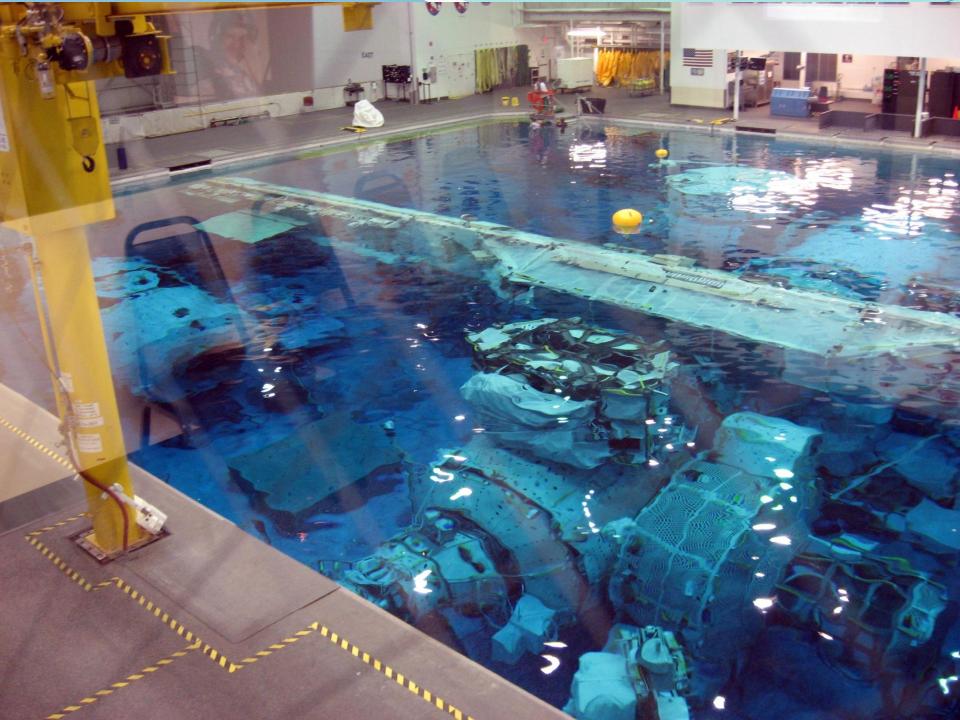


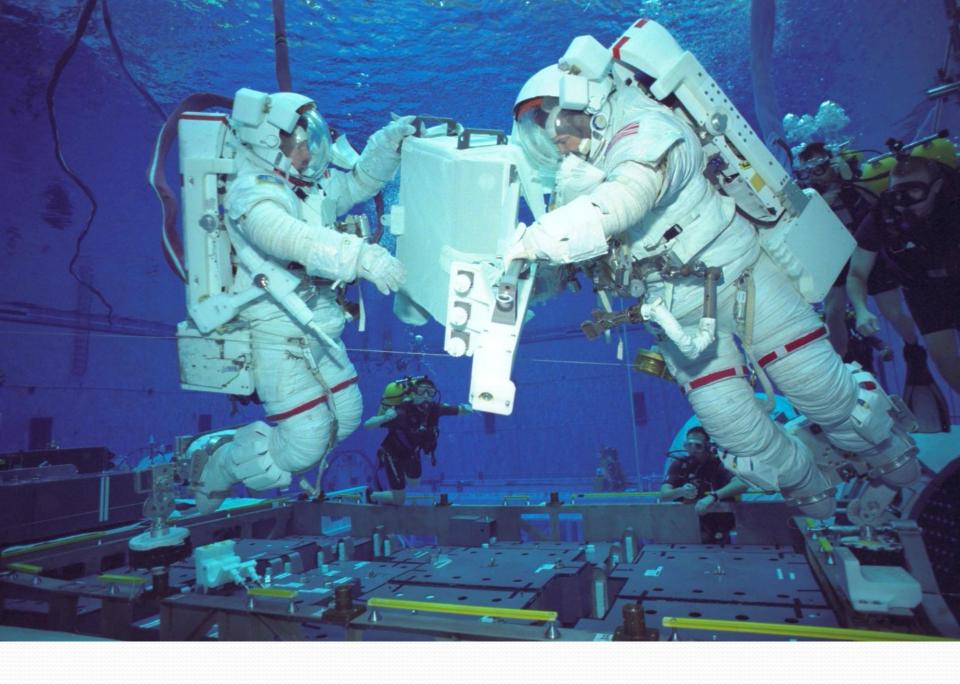














STS Entry Flight Profile

LA/FM 4/C. Graves

Note:

Orbiter displays actual attitude at 1 minute intervals from touchdown

and the second second

х

Earth horizon

TAEM interface

Orbiter ground track-

-10 n. mi.

Begin approach & landing phase

Runway 🗲

Legend WP-2 20° Threshold Way point (one or two) WP Heading alinement cylinder HAC NEP HAC radius Terminal area energy TAEM Begin 20,000 ft management prefinal Begin heading NEP Nominal entry point subphase alinement subphase WP-1











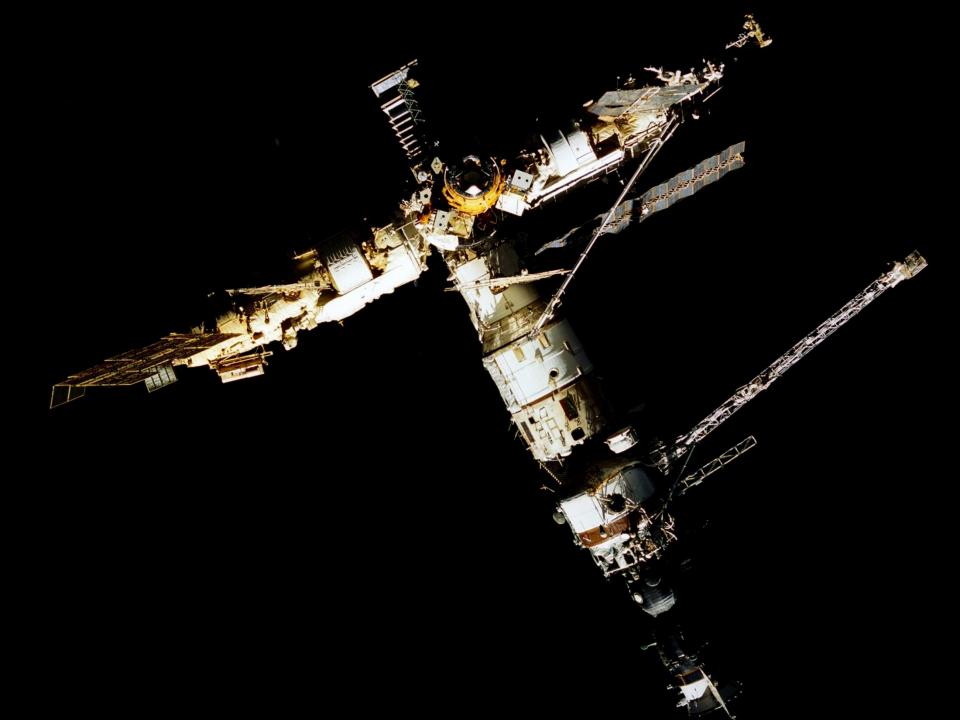


What did we learn?

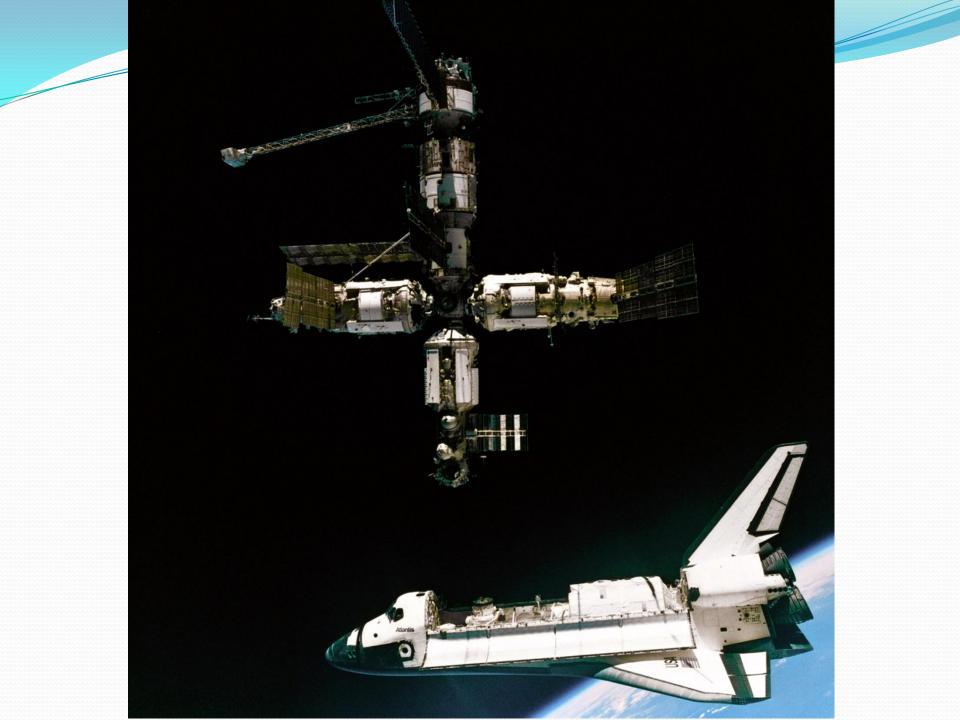
- Over 30 years of training (since 1977) has evolved a highly proficient system
- Complex vehicles and experiments increase training time
- Long training periods increases per flight costs and crew and flight controller family problems
- Flight delays increase costs since the meter runs all the time as you wait to fly, the training continues

Shuttle – Mir

- Goals
 - Rendezvous and dock with the Mir space station which was launched in 1986
 - This carried on an interchange which started in the medical exchanges and the ASTP flight
 - Six Americans stayed on the Mir for periods of 4 to 7 months
 - The US outfitted the Spektr module with medical experiments to augment the station capabilities











S76E5198 1996:03:25 14:28:02

What did we learn?

- Training in two countries, two languages is still very difficult
- More complex systems increases the total training time
- Procedures in two languages in two countries is difficult
- A large body of medical data was obtained and is still being analyzed
- On-orbit stowage and location tracking is central to success – Critical items can be lost, depleted, or discarded
- Well trained crews will react well even to problems unanticipated (e.g., fire and Progress collision/depress)

International Space Station

- To create a multinational permanent outpost in earth orbit
- To create a national laboratory for basic research utilizing high quality vacuum and reduced gravity conditions
- To provide a testing ground for space technologies and human operations systems before we venture further into the solar system

Background

- Crew training for the International Space Station presents a unique set of goals and challenges
- Assembly will involve 16 nations with 11 languages,
- Construction requires 41 Space Shuttle flights, 12 Russian assembly flights
- Also Soyuz and Progress vehicles to ferry crew members and supplies

ISS Training

- The ISS used **distributed operations and training**. Specifically, there are 6 control centers and 7 training sites scattered around the globe
- The training flow that was initially over 4.5 years -longer than it takes to start and finish most undergraduate programs
- Significant progress was made to shorten this template to 2.5 years, with the ultimate goal of reducing the flow to 18 months

Complexity of Russian involvement

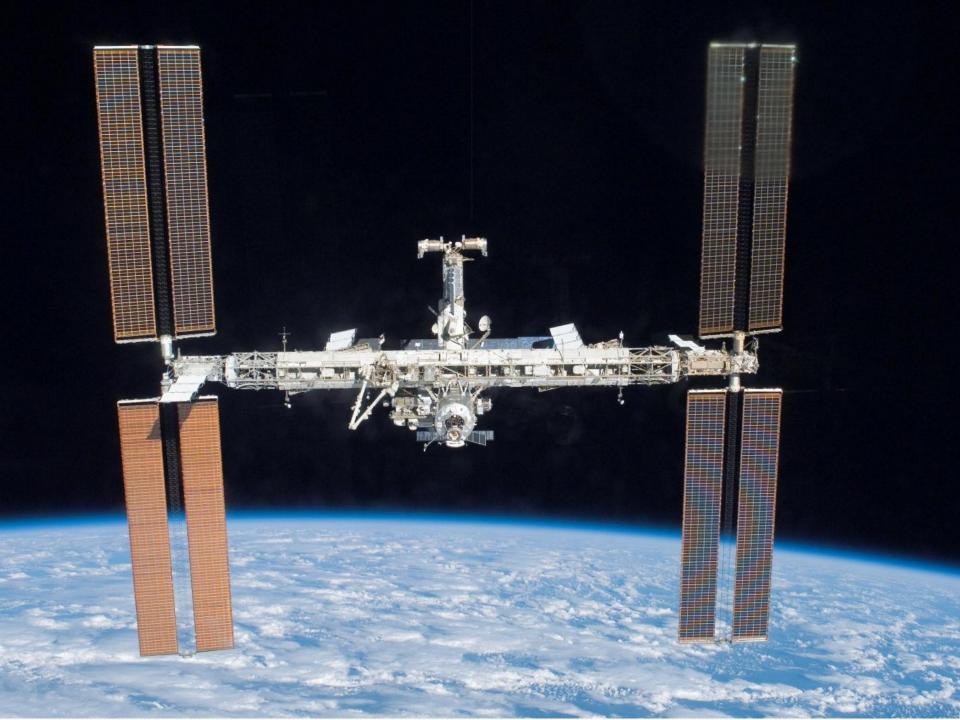
- Russian equipment and systems added
- Russian language abilities needed
- ISS laboratories increased from 3 to 5
- Two entirely different vehicles joined together (procedures and philosophy differences)
- Travel time and costs between JSC and Russia

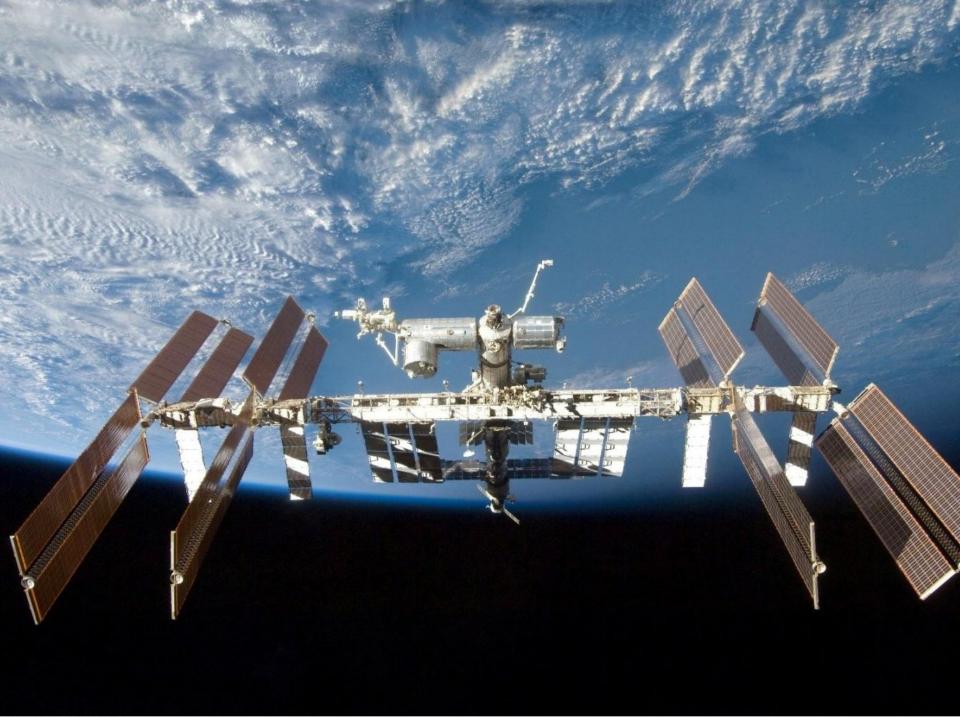




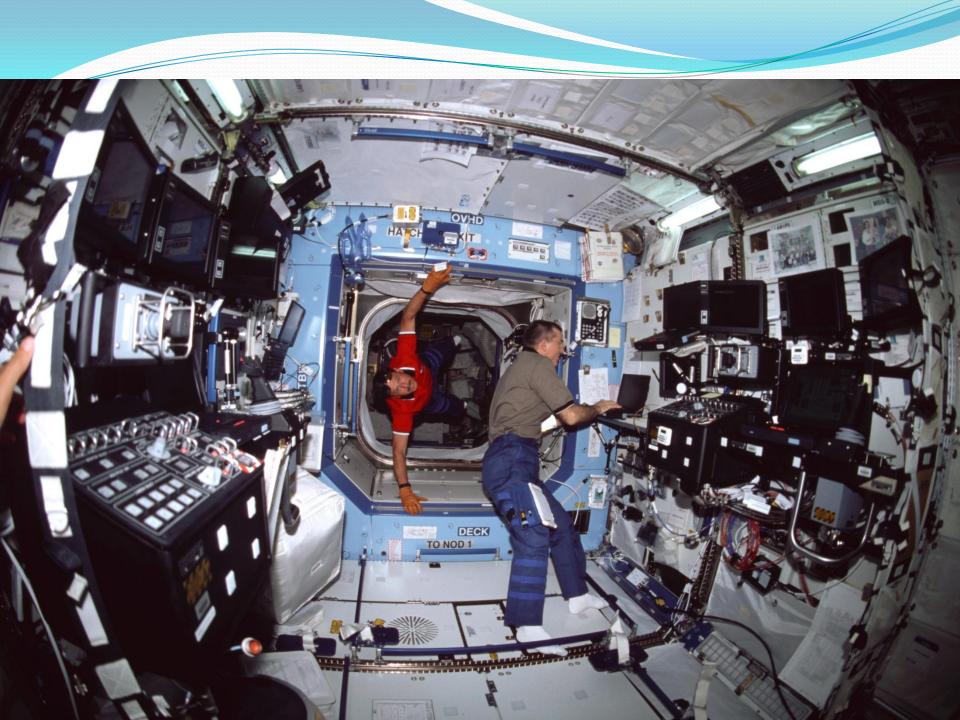
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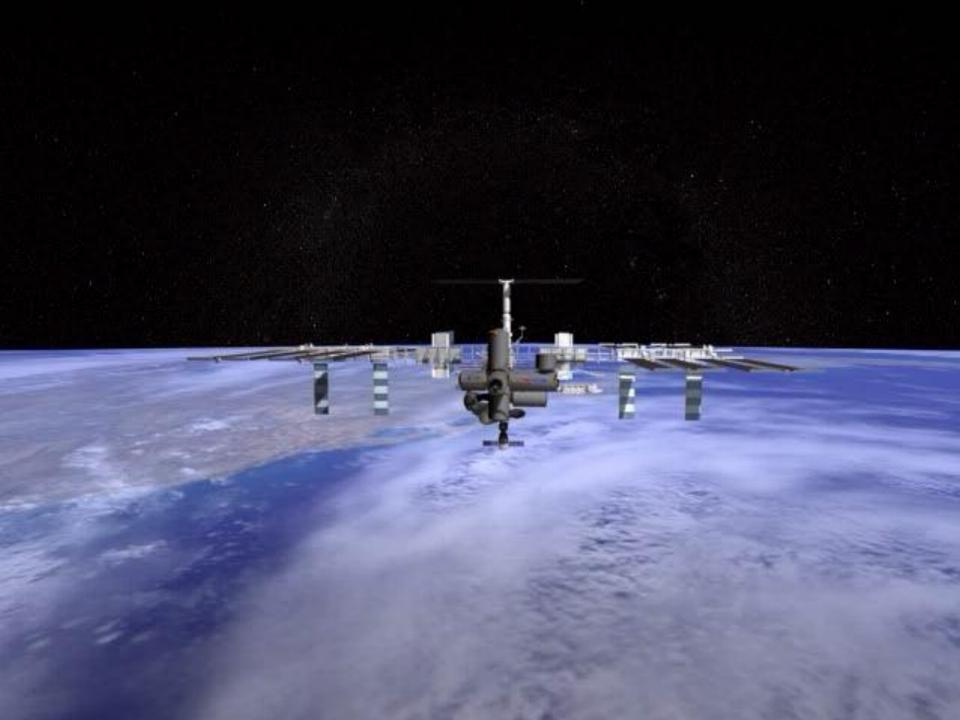












What are we learning?

- Multinational programs have awesome implication in globalization and cross-cultural impacts
- Training in multi languages and countries is extremely difficult on the crews
- Stowage and tracking of items is more critical than ever – the ISS is as bad as Mir ever was in this area
- We have to design programs with family life in mind, long separations during training period amplifies the problems that will normally occur during long flights

Training hours by Program

| <u>Vehicle</u> | <u>Crew #</u> | Training Hours | <u>Guidance Computer RAM</u> |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mercury | 1 | 200 | 0 |
| Gemini | 2 | 300 | 4k |
| Apollo | 3 | 400 | 36k x 2 units |
| Skylab | 3 | 800 | 24k x two units |
| Shuttle | 7 | 1000+ | 256k x 5 units |
| ISS | 3 | 3000 | 512M x >10 units + PCs |
| Moon/Mars | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | |

The Future

- The Vision for Space Exploration is our challenge
- Systems to leave the earth are adequate and will mature
- Human systems are inadequate crew training, food systems, medical systems, psychological support, stowage



Building on a Powerful Foundation for Future Missions

www.nasa.gov

Launch



Crew Launch



Abort Training



Rendezvous and docking



Landing... are easy but take time



What do we need to learn?

- Control the number of hours in training
- Start earlier in the training cycle (university?)
- Use just in time training
- Concentrate on the most time critical skills and learn the rest during the mission
- Design with control harmony in mind
- Design for repair in flight
- Design to minimize stowage problems and maximize utilization tracking

Summary

- We need to challenge the children to see the benefit of what we are doing here
- We need to keep them in school and instill the desire to excel the events that have happened
- We need to go further



