



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Space Suit Component and Survival Rucksack Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Space Suit Component and Survival Rucksack Collection
Date:	1966-1977
Identifier:	NASM.1988.0114
Creator:	United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Extent:	3.36 Cubic feet ((2 Records center boxes) (2 flatboxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

NASA, Transfer, 1988, 1988-0114, unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was inaugurated on 1 October 1958 with the intent of conducting a manned space program. NASA took over the rocketry and propulsion work previously performed by the United States Air Force, Navy, and National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Unmanned launches began during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) under Air Force auspices and have continued to the present with a wide variety of payloads, including space science, weather, communications, and earth observation satellites. The manned program progressed through Projects Mercury (1959-63; launches 1961-63), Gemini (1962-67; launches 1965-66), Apollo (1960-72; launches 1968-72), and Skylab (1969-74; launches 1973-74). After a hiatus following the Skylab program, the manned program focused on the Space Shuttle, a reusable spacecraft. The manned program was supported by a number of unmanned exploration vehicles in the Ranger, Lunar Orbiter, and Surveyor series throughout the 1960s, as well as research into a number of related areas.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the development of space suits and accessories for post-Mercury manned missions. The material includes acceptance data packages and test papers for the suits, life support systems, and survival rucksack which chart the testing and development of these systems.

Arrangement

Arrangement: The papers are arranged chronologically by program, beginning with the Gemini mission in Folder One of Box One (S-1C-1). The papers continue chronologically until concluding with the Skylab and Shuttle missions in Folder 28 of Box Two. Box Three contains binders from the Blue David Clark Co., Inc. These binders include operational logs from NASA and the field, malfunction reports, maintenance logs and serialization control records. Blue prints of the systems tested are also included. Box Four includes two computer printouts. Printout number one contains the summary of hardware located at the Smithsonian as of 3-27-1973. Number two contains the summary of hardware located at the Smithsonian as of 9-10-1973.

General

NASMrev

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Manned space flight
- Space shuttles
- Space suits

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Logs (records)
- Reports

Names:

- Project Apollo (U.S.)
- Project Gemini (U.S.)
- Skylab Program
- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration