



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Gemini and Apollo Crew Splashdown Recovery Color Slides [Don Blair]

Patti Williams

2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Gemini and Apollo Crew Splashdown Recovery Color Slides [Don Blair]
<b>Date:</b>	1966-1972
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2019.0034
<b>Creator:</b>	Blair, Donald W.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Cubic feet (One box.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of color slides taken by Don Blair during his coverage of astronaut crew splashdowns and recoveries, 1960s.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Don Blair with his microphone and camera aboard the USS Hornet (CVS-12) during Apollo 11 recovery operations: July 1969</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Robert Fish, Gift, 2019, NASM.2019.0034

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Gemini and Apollo Crew Splashdown Recovery Color Slides [Don Blair], NASM.2019.0034, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

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## Biographical / Historical

Donald W. Blair (1933-2018) served in the Army from 1953 to 1955, and then attended the Cambridge School of Radio and TV in Manhattan, New York. The first 10 years of his career were spent in local radio before he joined the Mutual Network and from 1966 until 1989 he worked at Mutual, WCBS Radio, ABC Entertainment and NBC. Blair covered astronaut splashdowns and recoveries for the following missions: Gemini 9, June

1966 with *USS Wasp* (CVS-18); Gemini 10, July 1966 with *USS Guadalcanal* (LPH-7); Gemini 11, September 1966 with *USS Guam*; (LPH-9); Apollo 11, July 1969 with the *USS Hornet* (CVS-12); and Apollo 15, August 1972 with the *USS Okinawa* (LPH-3). Blair detailed his experience in his book, *Splashdown: NASA and the Navy*, which was published in 2004.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 35 mm color slides taken by Don Blair during his coverage of astronaut crew splashdowns and recoveries for the following missions: Gemini 9, June 1966 with *USS Wasp* (CVS-18); Gemini 10, July 1966 with *USS Guadalcanal* (LPH-7); Gemini 11, September 1966 with *USS Guam*; (LPH-9); Apollo 11, July 1969 with the *USS Hornet* (CVS-12); and Apollo 15, August 1972 with the *USS Okinawa* (LPH-3). The collection also includes two 35 mm black and white negative strips from Apollo 15, a small contact sheet of 35 mm three negatives from Apollo 11, and a few 35 mm copy slides of official National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) photographs. A set of digital scans of most of the original slides was provided by the donor on a USB flash drive.

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## Arrangement

Slides are arranged by space mission recovery event, with black and white negatives appearing at the end of the collection.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Apollo Project
- Astronautics
- Astronauts
- Gemini Project
- Helicopters

Types of Materials:

- Color slides -- 1960-1990

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Gemini 9</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Gemini 10</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Gemini 11</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	Apollo 11 (SIMEX, Equator Crossing, Nixon, MQF, Pearl Harbor Return)
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 1	<a href="#">SIMEX [Simulation Exercise]</a>
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 2	<a href="#">Equator Crossing</a>
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 3	<a href="#">President Richard M. Nixon Visit</a>
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 4	<a href="#">Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF)</a>
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 5	<a href="#">Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (Color)</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii</a>
Box 1, Folder 4, Sheet 6	NASM-9A16421: <a href="#">Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (Black and White)</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Apollo 11 (Command Module Recovery)</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Apollo 11 (General Photos)</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Apollo 15</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	Black-and-White Photography
Box 1, Folder 8, Sheet 1	<a href="#">Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong strumming a ukelele inside the Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF), July 27, 1969</a>
Box 1, Folder 8, Sheet 2	<a href="#">Apollo 11 Hasselblad Camera; Apollo 15 Command Module and Astronaut Speeches aboard USS Okinawa (LPH-3), August 1971</a>