



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Project Mercury "Big Joe" Installation Records (Eiband Collection)

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Project Mercury "Big Joe" Installation Records (Eiband Collection)
<b>Date:</b>	1959
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0189
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
<b>Extent:</b>	2.18 Cubic feet ((2 records center boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

A. Martin Eiband, Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0189, unknown

### 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

Soon after the organization of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in October 1959, that agency selected Project Mercury as the first United States manned space program. The project was planned to launch a single man into Earth orbit and return him to Earth. Before launching a manned flight NASA planned a series of unmanned launches with the Mercury spacecraft/launch vehicle combinations to insure the success of later manned flights. The first successful launch of an instrumented Mercury boiler plate capsule, dubbed 'Big Joe' occurred on 9 September 1959 on an Atlas-10D booster from Cape Canaveral. The capsule reached an altitude of 161km (100 miles)e successfully reentering the atmosphere.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains data on the Big Joe capsule and its operation. The material includes blueprints of the thermocouple, telemetry, cooling, instrument, intercom, and other systems. It also contains notes and information on operations, afterbody assembly, personnel assignments, and safety measures, as well as other aspects of the work performed with the capsule during the Big Joe project.

## General

NASMrev

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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:

- Astronautics
- Manned space flight
- Space flight

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Drawings
- Notes
- Photographs

### Names:

- Big Joe (Space capsule)
- Project Mercury (U.S.)
- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration