



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Checklist Cue Cards

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2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Checklist Cue Cards
Date:	March 1, 1961
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0898
Creator:	United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space in the Mercury MR-3 capsule. This collection consists of two double-sided checklist cue cards for use on the Mercury MR-3 Flight in <i>Freedom</i> 7 including checklists for normal procedures as well as emergency procedure checklists for various situations.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Checklist Cue Cards

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donor unknown, material found in collection, NASM.XXXX.0898

Processing Information

Arranged and described (2009) and encoded (2022) by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Checklist Cue Cards, NASM.XXXX.0898, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space in the Mercury MR-3 capsule. He named it *Freedom* 7, the number signifying the seven Mercury astronauts; NASA called the mission Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3). Lofted by a Redstone rocket, Shepard and his capsule attained a maximum speed of

5180 mph and rose to an altitude of 116 miles. The sub-orbital flight lasted 15 minutes and 22 seconds. *Freedom 7* parachuted into the sea 302 miles from the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and was retrieved by helicopter, along with Shepard. NASA gave *Freedom 7* to the Smithsonian in 1962, the first manned spacecraft accessioned into the National Collection. It is also the only Mercury capsule of the original type flown by an astronaut.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of two double-sided checklist cue cards for use on the Mercury MR-3 Flight in *Freedom 7* including checklists for normal procedures including entrance, countdown, separation, capsule stabilization, retrograde, re-entry, and landing; as well as emergency procedure checklists for situations including abort, tower fails to jettison, capsule fails to separate, failure of ASCS automatic mode, failure of fly-by-wire mode, attitude gyro slaving failure, cabin depressurization, cabin re-pressurization, excessive CO2 partial pressure, emergency oxygen, alternate suit fan, main battery failure, standby battery failure, isolated battery failure, complete electrical failure, communications system failure, fire or fumes, periscope failure, failure to start retro sequence, failure to attain retro attitude, retro rockets fail to fire, failure to maintain retro attitude, retro package fails to jettison, ASCS cannot maintain re-entry attitude, .05G switch failure, drogue chute failure, antenna fairing fails to jettison, main chute failure, reserve chute failure, and landing bag fails to deploy.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7
- Space flight

Types of Materials:

- Checklists