

# Project Mercury



Carpenter/Cooper/Glenn/Grissom/Schirra/Shepard/Slayton

# PROJECT 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.

## THE MANNED FLIGHTS

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Mercury-Redstone 3  
FREEDOM 7  
May 5, 1961  
Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

15 minutes, 28 seconds  
Suborbital flight that  
successfully put the  
first American in space.

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Mercury-Redstone 4  
LIBERTY BELL 7  
July 21, 1961  
Virgil I. Grissom

15 minutes, 37 seconds  
Also suborbital; successful  
flight but the spacecraft  
sank shortly after splashdown.

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Mercury-Atlas 6  
FRIENDSHIP 7  
February 20, 1962  
John H. Glenn, Jr.

04 hours, 55 minutes 23 seconds  
Three-orbit flight that placed  
the first American into orbit.

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Mercury-Atlas 7  
AURORA 7  
May 24, 1962  
M. Scott Carpenter

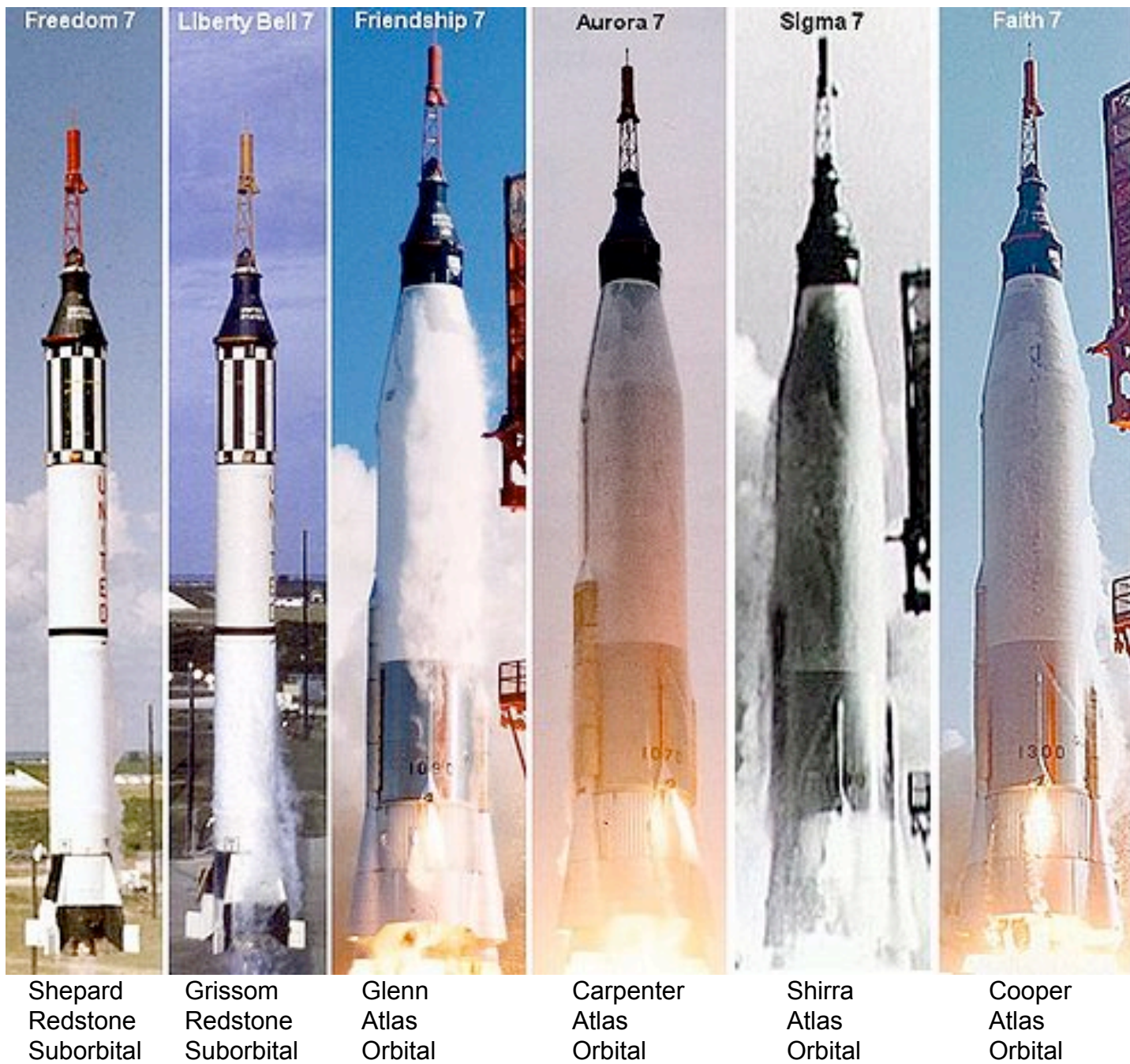
04 hours, 56 minutes, 5 seconds  
Confirmed the success of Mercury-  
Atlas 6 by duplicating flight.

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Mercury-Atlas 8  
SIGMA 7  
October 03, 1962  
Walter M. Schirra, Jr.

09 hours, 13 minutes, 11 seconds  
Six-orbit engineering test flight.

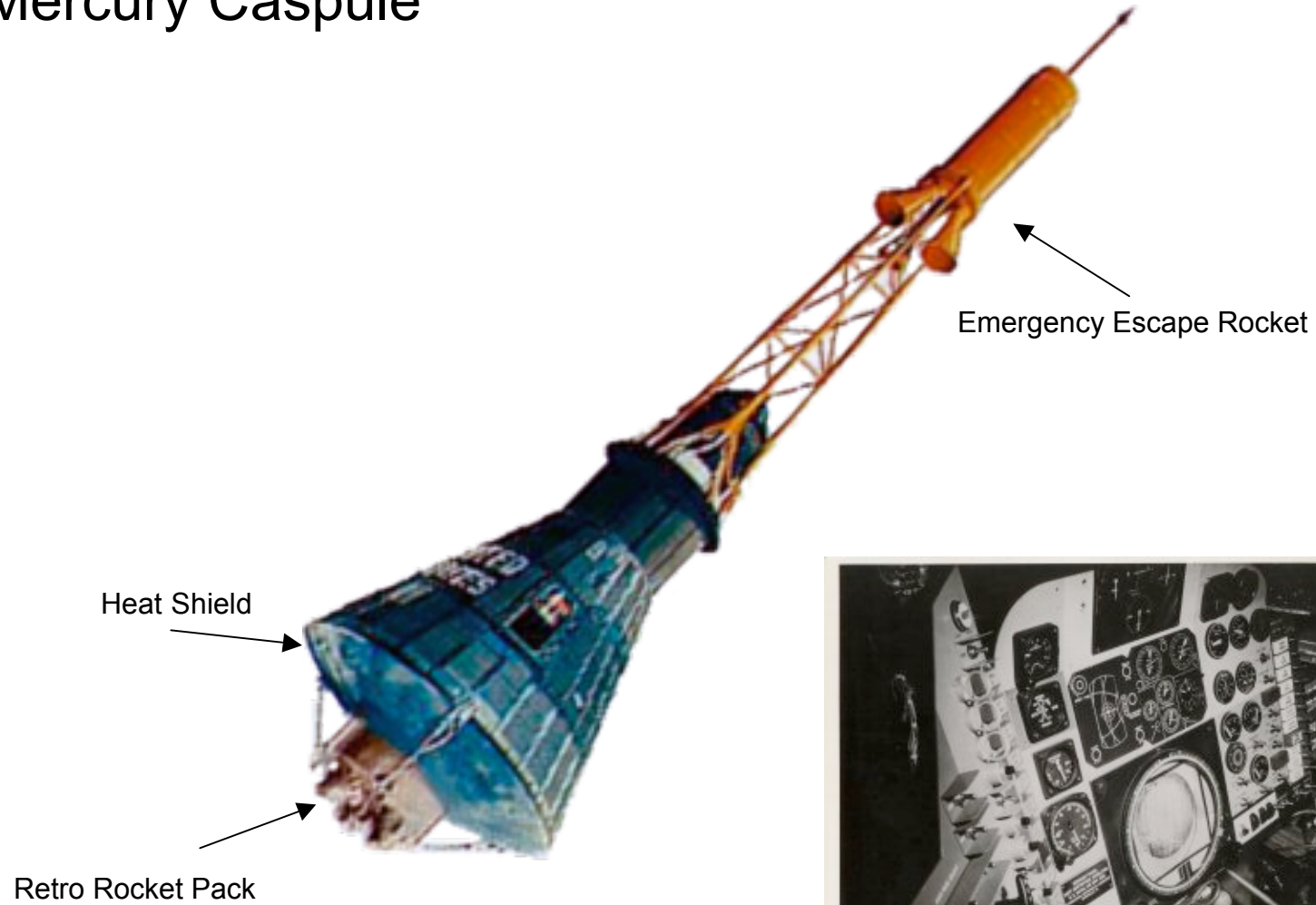
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Mercury-Atlas 9  
FAITH 7  
May 15-16, 1963  
L. Gordon Cooper, Jr.

34 hours, 19 minutes, 49 seconds  
Last Mercury mission; completed  
22 orbits to evaluate effects of  
one day in space.



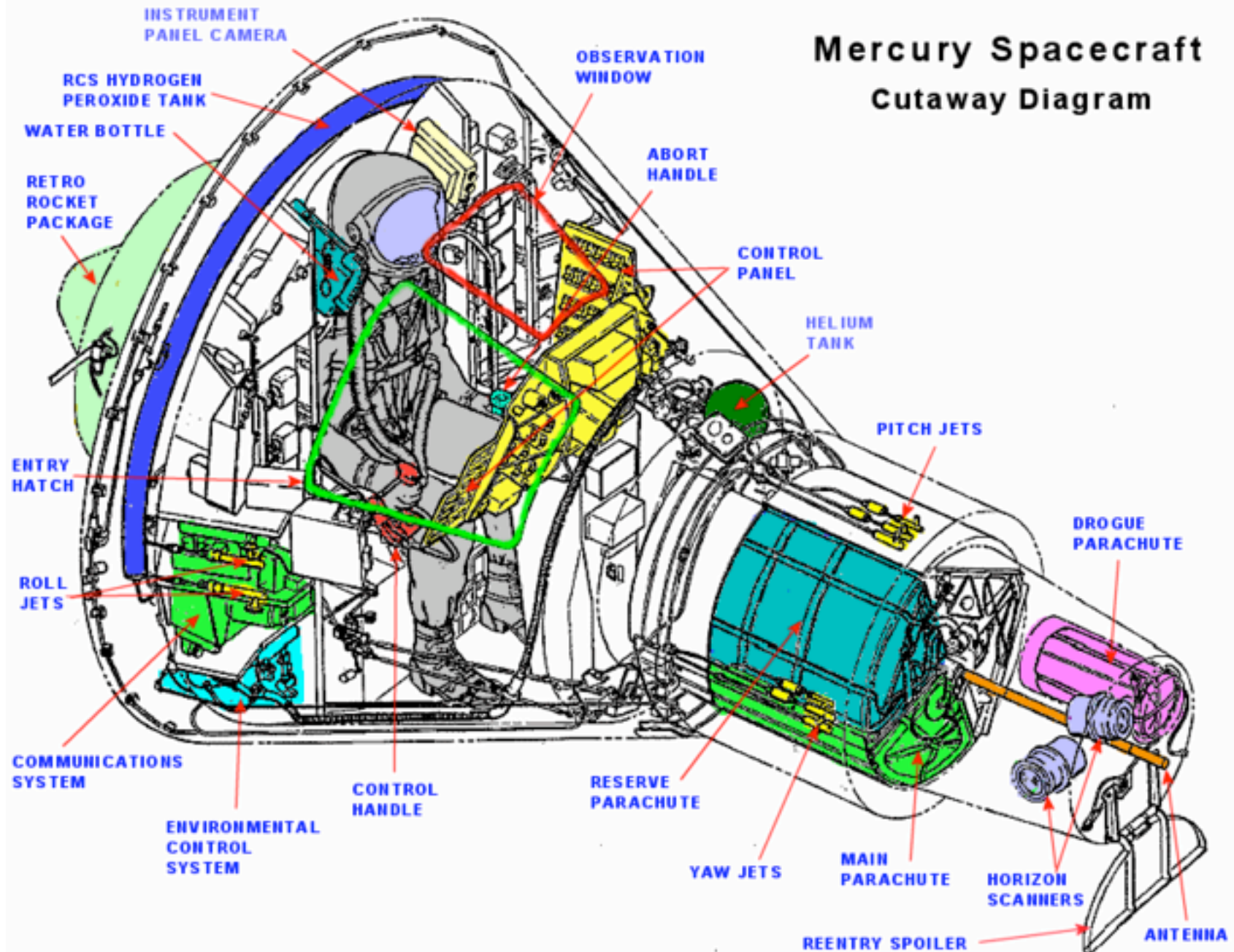


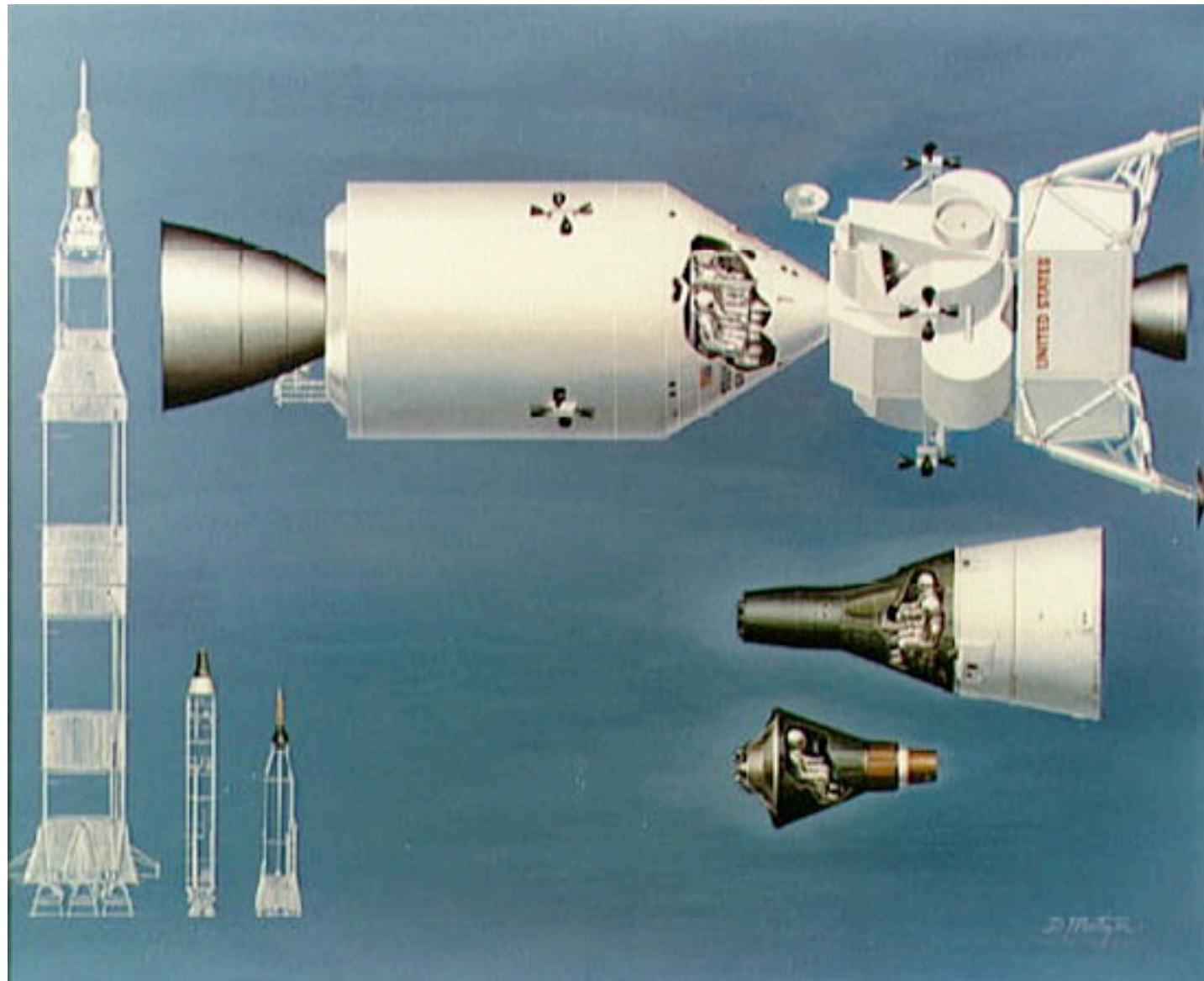
# Mercury Capsule



# Mercury Spacecraft

## Cutaway Diagram





Apollo

Gemini

Mercury