

NEWS



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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (202) 962-4155
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546 TELS: (202) 963-6925

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APOLLO 15 CREW SELECTED

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration named flight and support crews today for the Apollo 15 lunar landing mission.

Prime crewmen are astronauts David R. Scott, 37, commander; Alfred M. Worden, 37, command module pilot; and James E. Irwin, 40, lunar module pilot. They were backup crewmen for Apollo 12.

The backup flight crew for Apollo 15 consists of Astronauts Richard F. Gordon, 40; Vance D. Brand, 38; and Harrison H. (Jack) Schmitt, 34.

Members of the support crew are astronauts Karl G. Henize, 43, and Robert A. Parker, 33, both civilian Ph.D. scientist/astronauts selected by NASA in 1967.

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Gordon, Brand and Schmitt will be eligible for selection as prime crewmen for any mission subsequent to Apollo 16.

Schmitt, who holds a doctorate in geology, is the first scientist-astronaut to be named to a flight crew. It is likely that he will be a prime crewman on Apollo 17 or 18.

Since Dr. Schmitt is the only professional geologist currently qualified for flight crew selection, lunar landing site selection will be an important factor in determining which mission he will fly.

Apollo 15 is expected to fly six months after the Apollo 14 mission, presently scheduled in the fall of 1970. The launch date and the lunar site at which Apollo 15 will land will not be determined until after detailed evaluation of information returned by Apollo 13 and, perhaps Apollo 14.

The duration of Apollo 15 will be approximately 10 days. As presently planned, there will be two periods of lunar surface exploration of about four hours each. Those periods may be extended based on experience in preceding missions.

An Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package (ALSEP) will be deployed, extending the present network of instruments relaying to Earth information concerning the Moon's interior, exterior and atmosphere.

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Scott, an Air Force colonel, has flown two previous space missions, Gemini 8 and Apollo 9.

Worden, an Air Force major, will be making his first space flight. He has been an astronaut since April 1966.

Irwin, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, will also be making his first space flight. He was named an astronaut in April 1966.

Gordon, a Navy captain, was command module pilot of Apollo 12. He also flew the Gemini 11 mission.

Brand, a civilian, has not yet flown in space. He was selected in 1966.

Schmitt, a civilian, is a member of the first group of scientist-astronauts selected in July 1965.

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