



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

CDR Scott Carpenter

United States Navy (Ret.)

Commander Scott Carpenter is one of the original Mercury astronauts and a former P2V Neptune pilot. He flew aboard the Mercury-Atlas 7 mission, becoming the 4th American in space and the second to orbit the earth. After completion of his astronaut tour, Commander Carpenter joined the Navy's SEALAB program. This made him the only person ever designated as both an astronaut and an aquanaut.

On the eve of the Korean War, Commander Carpenter was recruited by the Navy's Direct Procurement Program (DPP), and reported to NAS Pensacola in the fall of 1949 for pre-flight and primary flight training. He earned his wings on April 19, 1951, in Corpus Christi, Texas. During his first tour of duty, Carpenter flew the Lockheed P-2V Neptune for Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) on reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare missions during the Korean War. Forward-based in Adak, Alaska, Carpenter then flew surveillance missions along the Soviet and Chinese coasts during his second deployment. Designated as PPC (patrol plane commander) for his third deployment, he was based with his squadron in Guam.

Commander Carpenter was then appointed to the United States Naval Test Pilot School, class 13, at NAS Patuxent River in 1954. After being chosen for Project Mercury in 1959, Carpenter served as backup pilot for John Glenn, who flew the first U.S. orbital mission aboard Friendship 7 in February 1962. He flew into space on May 24, 1962 atop the Mercury-Atlas 7 rocket for a three-orbit science mission that lasted nearly five hours. His Aurora 7 spacecraft attained a maximum altitude of 164 miles (264 km) and an orbital velocity of 17,532 miles per hour. Chris Kraft, directing the flight from Florida, considered Carpenter's mission the most successful to date.

In 1965, for SEALAB II, he spent 28 days living on the ocean floor off the coast of California. Commander Carpenter then returned to NASA as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Manned Spaceflight Center, and then to the Navy's Deep Submergence Systems Project in 1967 based in Bethesda, Maryland, as a Director of Aquanaut Operations for SEALAB III.

Commander Carpenter retired from the Navy in 1969, after which he founded Sea Sciences, Inc., a corporation for developing programs for utilizing ocean resources and improving environmental health.

In 1962, Boulder community leaders dedicated Scott Carpenter Park and Pool in honor of the native son turned Mercury astronaut. The Aurora 7 Elementary School, also in Boulder, was named for Carpenter's spacecraft. Scott Carpenter Middle School in Westminster, Colorado was named in his honor, as was M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

The Scott Carpenter Space Analog Station was placed on the ocean floor in 1997 & 1998. It was named in honor of his SEALAB work in the 1960s.