

Introduction



The project Mercury was the first project of the human spaceflight program of the United States, which later on would be handled by the newly created civilian space agency, NASA. It made twenty missions involving test animals and it completed six successful missions by six of the seven Mercury astronauts.

When the program started it was handled by the US Air Force, their first attempts ~~were~~ to try and get to space with the best military pilots that they could find, ~~the~~ ^{were} astronauts ~~that~~ ^{who} were chosen were called 'the seven'.

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Little Joe 1



The Little Joe 1 was the very first launch, on August 21, 1959. It failed.

The ^{aim (forget)} objective of the mission was to test the recovery systems of the Mercury Spacecraft. It consisted of a tower that would launch ~~the~~ Mercury capsule, containing the astronauts in it, in case of emergency.

The capsule tower launched thirty minutes before launch, taking the capsule with it. An electronic malfunction made it activate.

The escape rocket fired and pulled the Mercury spacecraft away from the launch pad. The spacecraft reached an apogee of 2,000 ft (610 m) and landed about 2000 feet away. The flight time was 20 seconds.