

# CHANGES IN THE ASTRONAUT CORPS AT THE JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

With the tragic explosion of Challenger on its 51-L mission and the deaths of its seven crew members, the best way to describe conditions at the Johnson Space Center would be "unsettled." And this is especially true among the astronaut corps. Some have already resigned, some have transferred to other NASA duties, and there is even the hint that more changes are yet to be made.

The SCCS covered the several different events of the selection of the first new astronaut groups during 1977 through 1979. Amongst this 35 finally chosen were McNair, Onizuka, Scobee and Resnik, who all died in the Challenger explosion. Below are details on eight of our astronaut-selection covers for the period during 1977-1979. Some of these are now in the "scarce" category and we are making this offer to you that ordered any of the 51-L covers. In about two months we will then make these covers available to other collectors at the regular prices. The prices on this one-time offering to you are greatly reduced and will be in effect until October 20, 1986.

For you that were with us in the past few years, these were offered previously to this mailing. However, if you wish extras this would be the best time to secure them. And for you that just came on with us, this is another example of SCCS offering covers to the collector that you would probably not find any place else.

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Cover #1 FIRST WOMEN AS ASTRONAUT APPLICANTS...This new group (the third of ten) reported to the Johnson Space Center on August 29, 1977. Of these 20, eight were women; a first for the U.S. space program. Our cover machine cancelled Houston and retails for \$3.50 The price on this offering is \$2.25

Cover #2 ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES SELECTED...On January 16, 1978, 35 new astronaut candidates for the Space Shuttle program were announced to the public. This group would report later to the JSC for two years of training and evaluation. Our cover has a cachet in black matching the others, postmarked Houston with machine cancel. Retail price is \$3.50. The price on this offering \$2.25

X COVER #3 Same as above but the cachet is in blue and pictures all 35 of the astronaut candidates. Retail price is \$3.50 On this offering it is \$2.25

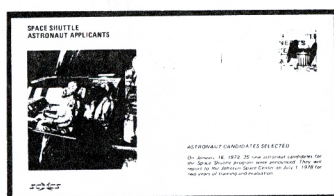
X COVER #4 ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES REPORT TO JSC FOR TWO YEARS TRAINING...On July 10, 1978, the 35 new astronaut candidates reported to JSC for their training. Our cover machine cancelled Houston with a retail price of \$3.50 On this offering, it is \$2.25

X COVER #5 DOUBLE CANCELLED COVER...The 35 new astronaut candidates were selected on Jan 16, 1978 (this date machine cancelled Houston). On July 10, 1978, they reported to JSC for two years of training (this second postmark hand cancelled Houston). A really scarce cover. Retail for \$7.00 but on this offering it is \$4.75

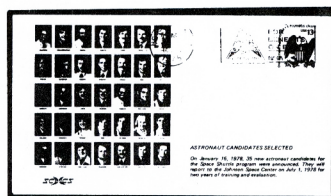
COVER #6 ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES PRESS CONFERENCE...On January 31, 1978 the 35 new astronaut candidates were introduced to the public and held their first press conference at the Johnson Space Center. Our cover machine cancelled Houston. Retail for \$3.50 This offering if at \$2.25

X COVER #7 NEW ASTRONAUTS NAMED...On August 31, 1979, the 35 astronaut trainees became astronauts. They had completed their training and evaluation and it was so intense that they had accomplished this in 13 months rather than 24. Our cover machine cancelled Houston. Retail for \$3.50 but is offered now for \$2.25

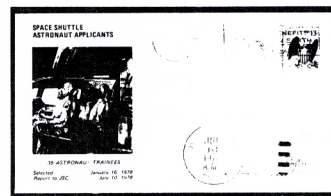
COVER #8 SAME AS ABOVE COVER...For those that collect the different cancels, this cover is the same cachet as #7 but it is hand cancelled with the Houston MPP cancel. Retail for \$3.75 but is offered here for \$2.25



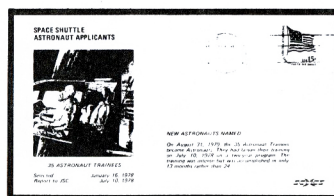
COVER #2



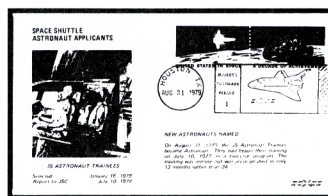
COVER #3



COVER #5



COVER #7



COVER #8