

THE FIRST SPACE SHUTTLE ASTRONAUT APPLICANTS

Collectors are searching for covers in this category, not only for the events represented, but for two other important reasons. Of the 35 finally chosen as astronaut candidates on January 16, 1978, four of them later died on the 51-L mission. These were McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee. One other in this group of 35 was Sally Ride...the first U. S. female astronaut in space.

SPACE SHUTTLE APPLICANTS

Space Shuttle astronaut applicants reported to the Johnson Space Center for individual interviews and physical examinations in ten different groups. The first eight groups each had 20 applicants, the ninth group had 23 and the tenth group had 25. Each group was there about one week. From these 208 applicants, 35 were chosen as astronaut candidates on January 16, 1978.

Here are the reporting dates for each group:

First group	August 2, 1977	Second group	August 15, 1977
Third group	August 29, 1977	Fourth group	September 19, 1977
Fifth group	September 26, 1977	Sixth group	October 3, 1977
Seventh group	Oct 17, 1977	Eighth group	Oct 25, 1977
Ninth Group	Nov 7, 1977	Tenth group	Nov 14, 1977

We have a set of ten, each cover with a cachet matching the first group (illustrated above). And each cachet gives complete details of that particular group. Truly, a remarkable set. With similar covers now selling at

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