

NASA IS LOOKING FOR ASTRONAUTS AGAIN

NASA is searching for six pilots and six mission specialists. Pilot-astronauts are responsible for control of space shuttles during launch, re-entry and other required maneuvers. Mission specialist-astronauts operate shuttle systems that support payloads during flights.

From October 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983, NASA accepted applications from civilians and at the same time, the military services began their process of screening applicants.

For pilots, qualifications are a bachelor's degree in engineering, biological or physical sciences or mathematics; at least 1,000 hours as pilot in command of a high-performance jet, with flight test experience highly desirable. Candidates' height must be between 5 feet 4 inches and 6 feet 4 inches, and they must pass a stringent physical examination.

Mission specialist candidates must have the same educational background; the degree must be supplemented by at least three years related professional experience. An advance degree is desirable and may be substituted for the experience. Candidates must be between 5 feet and 6 feet 4 inches tall.

It has been two years since the last group of astronauts was chosen. The space agency said the number of candidates to be recruited and subsequent selection periods will depend on mission requirements and the rate of attrition in the astronaut corps.

A total of 4934 men and women applied during the application period. Right after the first of 1984, NASA selected six groups of about 20 or so and these began, in groups at different times, a week of intensive screening at the Johnson Space Center. The last group of 15 mission specialist and seven pilot applicants began their week on March 25.

NASA will select the 12 finalists from these six groups and they will report to JSC in July 1984 for a year of training and evaluation. They will then be confirmed as astronauts after satisfactory completion of the evaluation period.

As the SCCS has done in previous shuttle astronaut selections, we have important covers for this new selection. The first is a set of two covers, for the application period. The first is cancelled on October 1, 1983 (first day of application period) and the second cover is cancelled on December 31, 1983 (final day of application period.)

Our second set is composed of six different covers. Each is cancelled on the first day of each of the six groups' reporting to JSC for their week of interviews and medical evaluations. Each cover lists the astronaut-applicants in that group. Again, the SCCS offers the collector a very detailed-cached set of covers. All of these were cancelled with the Houston MPP hand cancel.

We would suggest your order now as we have produced only a normal amount and have not done a lot of extras. Get your sets ordered now, especially while they are available at the new-issue price.

----- CUT HERE -----
TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P. O. Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following covers for new astronaut applicants:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| _____ Set(s) of 2 covers (Oct 1 and Dec 31, 1983) @ \$2.50 per set | \$ _____ |
| _____ Set(s) of 6 covers (one for first day of each groups' reporting to JSC) @ \$7.25 per set | _____ |
| Postage and handling | _____ .35 |
| Total remittance | \$ _____ |

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(Apr 84 #3) Please include one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.