

# LAUNCH COMPLEX 14

Launch Complex 14 is one of the more historically important complexes at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Constructed in 1956 it was dedicated to the developing Atlas program. The first ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) developed by the United States—the SM-65 Atlas—was launched from LC14 on June 11, 1957.

On February 20, 1962 Mercury-Atlas 6 launched John Glenn into orbit from Launch Complex 14. This was the first American astronaut to orbit the earth. Three other Mercury launches went from LC14.

In the third man-in-space program—Gemini—Launch Complex 14 was used to launch the Atlas-Agena. This unmanned orbital target vehicle was used by the astronauts in the Gemini spacecraft to practice rendezvous and docking in orbit.

Mercury-Atlas 9

“Faith 7”



John Glenn

First American to orbit the earth



## PROJECT MERCURY MONUMENT LAUNCH COMPLEX 14



The Project Mercury monument was dedicated on November 10, 1964 to honor America's first man-in-space program. It stands at the entrance to LC14, the launching site of the first manned orbital flights. At its base is a medallion showing the faces of the nation's seven original astronauts. Below this is a bronze tablet with the dedicatory inscription. Also on the tablet are the words (in Latin) "If you seek my monument, look around you." Words from the epitaph on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren at St. Paul's Cathedral in London are also appropriate to describe the view of LC14-the site of the accomplishments of the Mercury Seven and to honor all those involved in America's man-in-space program. The mathematical formula at the top of the tablet is the "escape velocity formula." (The minimal velocity an object must have in order to escape the gravitational pull of the earth). Beneath the slab is a time capsule containing films, documents and photographs of the Mercury Program. It will be opened in 2464-five hundred years after the dedication.

### PROJECT MERCURY MONUMENT

Features the astronomical symbol for the planet Mercury  
and the number 7 for the original seven astronauts

Fabricated of the same type of stainless steel developed for the Atlas

Height: 13 feet

Width: 6 feet

Depth: 1 foot

Weight: 1,250 pounds

# MEMORIALS LAUNCH COMPLEX 14 CCAFS



On 17 May 1962 thirteen airmen of a Mercury support group perished in a crash near Nairobi, Kenya. They were assigned to Scott Carpenter's Aurora 7 orbital flight. A monument was dedicated in their honor and placed near Launch Complex 14.

Most of the areas surrounding the early launch pads were bereft of "street lights" (as is true today). Many engineers, reporting to work at night, had trouble identifying the roads in the dark. One in particular, Thomas J. O'Malley, Atlas Test Conductor at LC14, being necessary for the testing was given his own "street light" at the entrance road to LC14. A plaque on the post reads "O'Malley's Guiding Light"

