

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996418181303316
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Titolo	NASA's First Space Shuttle Astronaut Selection [[electronic resource]] : Redefining the Right Stuff / / by David J. Shayler, Colin Burgess
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2020
ISBN	3-030-45742-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2020.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XXXIII, 589 p. 105 illus., 80 illus. in color.)
Collana	Space Exploration
Disciplina	629.4410973
Soggetti	Astronomy Space sciences Aerospace engineering Astronautics Popular Science in Astronomy Space Sciences (including Extraterrestrial Physics, Space Exploration and Astronautics) Aerospace Technology and Astronautics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Authors' Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Foreword -- Dedication -- List of Abbreviations and acronyms -- Prologue -- Chapter 1: Expanding 'The Right Stuff' -- Chapter 2: Who could fly? -- Chapter 3: The new pilot astronauts -- Chapter 4: The first Mission Specialists -- Chapter 5: All Change in the Astronaut Office -- Chapter 6: Ascan pioneers -- Chapter 7: Silver Pin astronauts -- Chapter 8: Preparing to fly -- Chapter 9: NASA's All-Electric Flying Machine -- Chapter 10: The TFNG take wings -- Chapter 11: "Go at throttle up" -- Chapter 12: The final missions -- Chapter 13: Flying a desk -- Chapter 14: Reflections -- Chapter 15: The legacy -- Afterword -- Appendices -- Bibliography -- About the authors -- Other works by the authors -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Unofficially they called themselves the TFNG, or the Thirty-Five New Guys. Officially, they were NASA's Group 8 astronauts, selected in January 1978 to train for orbital missions aboard the Space Shuttle. Prior to this time only pilots or scientists trained as pilots had been

assigned to fly on America's spacecraft, but with the advent of the innovative winged spacecraft the door was finally opened to non-pilots, including women and minorities. In all, 15 of those selected were categorised as Pilot Astronauts, while the other 20 would train under the new designation of Mission Specialist. Altogether, the Group 8 astronauts would be launched on a total of 103 space missions; some flying only once, while others flew into orbit as many as five times. Sadly, four of their number would perish in the Challenger tragedy in January 1986. In their latest collaborative effort, the authors bring to life the amazing story behind the selection of the first group of Space Shuttle astronauts, examining their varied backgrounds and many accomplishments in a fresh and accessible way through deep research and revealing interviews. Throughout its remarkable 30-year history as the workhorse of NASA's human spaceflight exploration, twice halted through tragedy, the Shuttle fleet performed with magnificence. So too did these 35 men and women, swept up in the dynamic thrust and ongoing development of America's Space Shuttle program. This book on the Group 8 Astronauts, the TFNGs, is an excellent summation of the individuals first selected for the new Space Shuttle Program. It provides insight into what it took to first get the Space Shuttle flying. For any space enthusiast it is a must read. Robert L. Crippen PLT on STS-1 .
