



Human space flight programs began in the early 1960s with the creation of Project Mercury. The Gemini and Apollo Programs advanced flight capabilities, enabling humans to reach the ultimate goal of that time, landing on the Moon. This was accomplished on July 20, 1969, with astronaut Neil Armstrong being the first man to set foot on the lunar surface. The Skylab and ASTP Programs proved that man could live and work in space for long periods of time and that international cooperation in space could be achieved. Orbital flight tests of the Space Transportation System began in 1981 and reached the operational phase in 1982. The exhibit is composed of nine self-standing panels illustrated with large photographs and captions from past missions.

On display now through the summer of 2012 at Mid America Air Museum.