

showing mission targets, some operational documents and handbooks from VFM-311, the Marine Corps squadron he flew with in Korea, and a handwritten listing of the combat missions he flew from February to May 1953. Also of note is a report Glenn wrote, dated August 1953, on aerial dogfight tactics between F-86 Sabre aircraft and MiG-15 jets.

The Test Pilot section consists of numerous files pertaining to Glenn's posting to and training at the Naval Aviation Test Center at Patuxent River, Maryland in 1953 and 1954. Other files contain routine orders and documents for his temporary duties at various postings around the country. Also included are extensive files on Project Bullet, Glenn's 1957 record setting transcontinental flight. Among these files are maps, planning documents, correspondence, and other official records of the flight. Other files contain materials pertaining to the national publicity Glenn received as a result of his record setting flight. These materials include newspaper and magazine clippings, fan mail, and items from Glenn's appearance on the national television program "Name That Tune." Since Glenn continued as an officer in the Marine Corps during his assignment to NASA's Mercury Program in 1959, the Test Pilot section contains a few records dating from the 1959 to 1965 time period. Notable among these documents is an official notice Glenn received informing him that due to his failure to complete a required written and flight examination he was permitted to fly only as a co-pilot. Glenn received this notice in January 1962, one month prior to his historic flight aboard the *Friendship 7* spacecraft.

### **Series III: NASA Records**

**Boxes 19 – 89**

#### **Sub-series 1: Mercury Seven**

**Boxes 19 – 74**

The Mercury Seven Sub-series consists of fifty-six cubic feet of correspondence, memoranda, notes, reports, manuals, publications, newspaper clippings, and related materials dating from 1958 to 1973, though the bulk of the materials date from 1959 to 1964. The records document the six years John Glenn was assigned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts. Also included are materials relating to his continued association with NASA after he left the program in 1964. The sub-series is divided into the two main categories of personal files and working papers.

#### **Personal Files**

The thirty-six cubic feet of personal files consist of correspondence, fan mail, newspapers, resolutions and proclamations, subject files, and scrapbooks. The personal files generally relate to the publicity and recognition John Glenn received as a Mercury astronaut and provide insights into the elevation of Glenn to the status of a national hero following his historic space flight aboard the *Friendship 7* spacecraft on February 20, 1962.

The **correspondence** located within the personal files (boxes 19-22) consists of four cubic feet of invitations and requests sent to John Glenn from 1959 to 1964, though most letters date from February 1962 through December 1963. The majority of the letters are invitations for Glenn to speak or appear at a wide variety of events around the country and throughout the world. Scattered among the invitations are requests for Glenn to provide the author with such things as a memento, a statement, or an endorsement. The correspondence is divided into two sets of files.

The first set was compiled by Glenn or a clerical assistant and is sorted by year from 1959 through 1963. Letters within each year are in alphabetical order by the author's last name and may be paired with a carbon copy of Glenn's reply. Compiled by NASA's Astronaut Affairs Office, the second set of files contains letters dating from 1962 to 1964. Letters within this second set of files also are arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name and may be paired with a carbon copy of the reply sent by Donald Slayton as the Coordinator of Astronaut Affairs.

The **fan mail** included within the personal files (boxes 23-36) consists of fourteen cubic feet of letters and other materials sampled from the hundreds of thousands of letters written to John Glenn by admirers from 1959 to 1966. This fan mail provides some understanding about the impact Glenn's *Friendship 7* space flight had upon the American public and what it meant to individuals in countries around the globe. The fan mail also provides insights on how John Glenn became the most acclaimed American hero since Charles Lindbergh. As originally received, the fan mail consisted of 137 boxes containing approximately 150,000 to 175,000 pieces of mail sent to Glenn from every state in the union and from eighty-nine foreign countries. Whether or not this number represents all the fan mail Glenn received in the early 1960s or is simply the number that survived in storage is not known. When initially received the fan mail was devoid of any type of arrangement. Most boxes lacked folders and simply contained a pile of letters. The exception was two boxes marked "Book Consideration," which contained those letters John Glenn and his family sorted and arranged for possible inclusion in his book, *P.S., I Listened to Your Heart Beat: Letters to John Glenn*, published in 1964 by World Book Encyclopedia Science Service, Inc. The letters contained within these two boxes were ones that Glenn set aside, but did not include in the book. All of these "Book Consideration" letters are included in the fan mail, arranged in the categories developed by Glenn and his family.

The letters contained within the remaining 135 boxes were sorted into the twenty-two categories of adults, business offers, children, crank, drawings, foreign countries, gifts, Annie Glenn, David Glenn, Lyn Glenn, greeting cards, honorary memberships, John F. Kennedy, miscellaneous, music, other astronauts, poetry, publications and newsletters, religious theme, requests, telegrams, and VIP. During the sorting approximately 37,500 letters simply requesting Glenn's picture and/or autograph were set aside and discarded. An additional category, school class packets, contained more than 2,200 packets of letters written by children in elementary school classes from around the country. These letters typically were bound together in some manner and mailed with a cover letter written by the class teacher. Ten percent of these school class packets, taken from a random sampling, are alphabetically arranged by state within the fan mail collection.

Letters from individual children, along with the letters written by adults, were sorted and arranged by year, from 1959 through 1966. Ten percent of the letters per each year for the categories of children's letters and adult letters, chosen by a random sampling, are included in the fan mail collection. The letters from foreign countries first were sorted into folders by country, and then those folders containing more than thirty letters were randomly sampled with ten percent chosen for inclusion in the collection. Glenn also received more than 2,000 pieces of poetry and sheet music commemorating his space flight, of which ten percent was selected randomly for the collection. All other categories of fan mail were not sampled, so the fan mail

collection contains all the letters within these respective categories as originally received. Also included in the fan mail are four oversized boxes (boxes 37-40) containing a sampling of the dozens of scrapbooks on the *Friendship 7* space flight sent to John Glenn by the general public. Elementary school classes compiled most of these scrapbooks, which are similar in nature to the school class packets. The scrapbooks, however, may contain newspaper and magazine clippings and children's artwork, as well as letters written by school children.

The **newspapers** located within the personal files consist of five oversized boxes (boxes 41-45) containing newspapers dating from February 20 to February 24, 1962. Box forty-one contains a scrapbook type volume titled, "Glenn in Orbit: The Front Page Story Around the World, February 21, 1962." Compiled by the San Diego Union newspaper, this volume contains facsimiles of the front pages from newspapers published in nine major American cities and from newspapers published in twenty-one foreign countries. The remaining four boxes contain the original front pages with headlines about the *Friendship 7* space flight as published by newspapers in twenty-five states and by newspapers in forty-nine foreign countries. These two sets of newspapers are arranged alphabetically by state and alphabetically by foreign country. Most folders contain the front page from more than one newspaper published within that particular state or foreign country.

Box forty-six of the personal files contains dozens of **resolutions and proclamations** commemorating John Glenn and the *Friendship 7* space flight as enacted by various government entities across the United States. The documents are sorted into the categories of cities, counties and townships, states, and the U.S. Congress. Also included is a folder containing resolutions and proclamations as enacted by various private organizations.

The **subject files** included within the personal files (boxes 47-50) consist of four cubic feet of materials dating from 1961 to 1974, with a few items dating from the 1980s and 1990s. Arranged in alphabetical order by folder heading, the subject files contain correspondence, notes, reports, newspaper and magazine clippings, programs, speeches, articles, and other materials on a variety of topics pertaining to John Glenn's activities in the aftermath of the *Friendship 7* space flight. The files also document Glenn's continued association with NASA after his resignation from the agency in 1964.

Included in the subject files are folders on the various space and aviation related organizations in which John Glenn was a member, such as the American Astronautical Society, the Explorers Club, and the National Space Club. A series of files contain some of the numerous awards, citations, and honorary memberships given to Glenn in 1962. Other files pertain to events and conferences in which Glenn participated, including the Third International Space Science Symposium sponsored by the Committee on Space Research in April and May 1962, and both the Second and Third National Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Space held in May 1962 and May 1963. Other notable events include the 1962 visit of Soviet cosmonaut, Major Gherman Titov, and the presentation of the *Friendship 7* spacecraft to the National Air and Space Museum on February 20, 1963.

Also contained within the subject files are copies of articles on space related topics written by John Glenn from 1959 to 1969, along with a few interview and speech files. The speeches

include, most notably, Glenn's drafts and notes for the speech he delivered to a special joint session of the U.S. Congress on February 26, 1962. Other files contain speeches given in 1963 to the Associated Press Annual Luncheon and to the National Education Association. Other files contain numerous newspaper clippings on the events and celebrations immediately following the *Friendship 7* space flight, as well as files with Glenn's notes, schedules, and correspondence for the post-flight parades held in his honor in Washington, D.C., New York City, and New Concord, Ohio. Additional files contain clippings of space related articles from newspapers and magazines compiled for reference purposes by Glenn from 1964 through 1973.

After the *Friendship 7* space flight John Glenn undertook the role of NASA's good-will ambassador due in a large degree to his worldwide popularity. During the 1960s he traveled to numerous foreign countries for a planned series of public appearances. Contained within the subject files are materials documenting these good-will trips to Japan in 1963, to Europe in 1965 and 1966, and to Burma in 1966.

Also contained within the subject files is a sampling of the yearbooks sent to John Glenn during the 1960s through the 1990s by various high schools and colleges. Many of the high schools represented in this sampling are named in honor of Glenn. The remaining yearbooks are from schools that dedicated a particular yearbook in his honor.

The subject files include four oversized boxes (boxes 51-54) containing seven scrapbooks dating from the 1960s. The most notable is a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photographs compiled by either John Glenn or his wife, Annie, on the 1962 visit of Soviet cosmonaut, Major Gherman Titov. Another scrapbook contains newspaper and magazine articles on the *Friendship 7* space flight compiled and sent to Glenn by a fan. This scrapbook is included in the collection as a typical example of the many such scrapbooks sent to Glenn by the general public during the 1960s. Other scrapbooks contain compilations of the Spanish and the Japanese media coverage of the *Friendship 7* space flight given to Glenn during his good-will trips in the 1960s. The remaining scrapbooks pertain to the events of Glenn's 1963 trip to Japan.

## **Working Files**

The twenty cubic feet of working files (boxes 55-74) consist of the manuals, reports, subject files, and publications John Glenn compiled and used as a Mercury Seven astronaut. Items located within the files date from 1958 to 1972, though the bulk of the materials date from 1959 to 1964. These materials document Glenn's work with NASA's Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs and provide a rich resource into the early years and development of NASA's manned space programs. The files are sorted into the four categories of Apollo Program, Gemini Program, Mercury Program, and Publications.

The two cubic feet of records on the **Apollo Program** (boxes 55-56) consist of reports and subject files dating from 1957 to 1968, though the bulk of the items date from 1962 to 1963. The majority of the files relate to John Glenn's work on the early designs of the control panel and instrumentation for the crew station of the Apollo spacecraft. These records consist mainly of drawings, reports, memoranda, and briefing materials. Included in the subject files is a series of general memoranda dating from 1960 to 1963, in which are interfiled some meeting agendas,

minutes, and notes written by Glenn. Other records pertain to the design of the lunar excursion module and various mission simulators, and to the Apollo Program in general.

The one cubic foot of **Gemini Program** files (box 57) consist of reports and subject files of a general nature dating from 1962 to 1966. Many of the files contain press kits, press releases, and other media related materials. A few files contain records from specific Gemini missions, such as the May 1965 flight plan and orbital chart for Gemini-Titan Mission Number Four. Notable among the Gemini materials is an operations handbook dated October 1963 and a project familiarization manual dating from July 1962.

The twelve cubic feet of materials pertaining to the **Mercury Program** (boxes 58-69) include manuals, publications, reports, and subject files dating from 1958 to 1963. The two cubic feet of manuals include John Glenn's personal copies of the manuals covering flight operations, mission rules, and flight control for Mercury-Atlas Mission Number Six (MA-6), his *Friendship 7* space flight. Also included are similar manuals for most of the other five manned Project Mercury missions. Additional manuals cover the procedures for pre-launch and countdown, launch pad emergencies, and recovery activities. Other notable manuals include an Astronaut's Handbook, dated December 1959, and an Introduction to Project Mercury and Site Handbook dating from September 1960.

The one cubic foot of Project Mercury publications consist of brochures, booklets, and reports published by NASA on various aspects of the program. Most of these publications were targeted for the general public and include small booklets, heavily illustrated with photographs, on each of the six manned Project Mercury missions. Other public oriented publications include two booklets with biographical sketches of the Mercury Seven astronauts printed in April 1959 and July 1959, two other booklets from 1959 containing general information on the Mercury program, and two chronologies of Project Mercury, dated 1962 and 1963. Also included with the publications are various volumes containing more detailed technical data on the Project Mercury missions published for the scientific community. Included among these volumes are such items as "Descriptive Synopsis of Project Mercury," published in August 1962, and "Biomedical Support for Project Mercury," published in 1963. Another publication, "Results of the First U.S. Manned Orbital Space Flight, February 20, 1962," contains technical and scientific information on the *Friendship 7* space flight. The publications files contain similar volumes for the other five manned Project Mercury missions.

The two cubic feet of report files contain reports on various aspects of Project Mercury printed generally for in-house use by NASA personnel and aerospace industry contractors. Most of the reports pertain to a specific Project Mercury mission. Arranged in chronological order by mission, this series contains reports from the Little Joe Mission Number Five, launched on December 23, 1960, to the Mercury-Atlas Mission Number Nine, flown on June 24, 1963 by Gordon Cooper in the *Faith 7* spacecraft. The mission specific reports include post-launch memorandum reports, technical information summaries, data reports, mission directive reports, and mission analyses. Other items, such as quarterly status reports, are more general in nature and cover the entire Mercury program. Also included are reports on a particular aspect of Project Mercury, such as the communications system, the pressure suit worn by the astronauts, and the mission preparedness of the astronauts.

The seven cubic feet of subject files date from 1958 to 1964 and consist of memoranda, correspondence, notes, reports, drawings, meeting minutes, charts, maps, media related items, and other materials compiled by John Glenn on a wide range of topics pertaining to NASA's Project Mercury. A significant number of files relate to the suggestions on capsule design put forth by the seven Mercury astronauts early in the program. These files include meeting minutes and other documents, dated 1959 to 1961, from four Capsule Coordination Groups and from NASA's Space Task Group. Other capsule design files document Glenn's assignment to the group responsible for the design of the capsule control panel and instrumentation. Another series of files contain training related materials, including information on basic astronautics and desert and jungle survival. Other training materials, filed by topic, pertain to the conditions NASA scientists and engineers anticipated the astronauts would encounter during launch and space travel, such as acceleration, heat, noise and vibration, and zero gravity.

An extensive number of files pertain to the various unmanned and the six manned missions of Project Mercury. These files include a series of orbit and recovery charts dating from 1959 to 1963. Information on specific Project Mercury missions may include inspection board reviews for both the capsule and rocket, launch procedures, flight plans, general memoranda, post-flight debriefings, transcripts of air-ground communications, and media related materials, such as press kits and press releases. The mission records for Glenn's own *Friendship 7* space flight also include files containing his notes and statements, Associated Press bulletins, and foreign press reaction, along with information on such topics as the selection of a name for his capsule and the ice crystals encountered during his flight. Of particular note are oversized charts hand-drawn by John Glenn containing minute-by-minute details on the planned tasks and activities for each orbit of the *Friendship 7* space flight. Additional subject files cover such topics as medical issues, communications, press releases, and newspaper clippings on the Mercury program in general. Notable files include an astronaut selection fact sheet dated April 9, 1959, data on Atlas missile flight failures compiled in December 1961, and undated notes written by John Glenn on the history of Project Mercury.

The **Publications** consist of five cubic feet of materials (boxes 70-74), dated 1958 to 1972, divided into the two categories of miscellaneous publications and NASA publications. The miscellaneous publications contain reports, papers, and studies on a wide variety of space related topics published by the aerospace industry, by institutions of higher education, and by scholarly journals. Included are reports on basic aeronautics and manned space flight published by such corporations as Chance Vought Aircraft, General Dynamics, Space Technology Laboratories, and McDonnell Aircraft. Other items include papers on specific aspects of manned and satellite space flight from, among others, the American Rocket Society, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the National Academy of Sciences. Of note are various reports on aerospace medical issues published from 1959 to 1964 by the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine and by the journal, *Aerospace Medicine*.

Two series, "Current News" and "Astronautics and Aeronautics: A Chronology on Science, Technology, and Policy" comprise the majority of the NASA publications. The "Current News" series contains newsletter type publications, dated 1959 and 1962 to 1964, containing copies of newspaper articles on NASA compiled by NASA's Public Information Office. "Astronautics and Aeronautics" contains a monthly chronological report with informational highlights on

NASA and general aerospace activities. The series contains scattered monthly reports dating from 1966 to 1970, along with yearly volumes of a similar nature for 1961, 1962, 1966, and 1968. Other NASA publications in the collection target the general public and include brochures and booklets on NASA in general and on specific NASA facilities, such as the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas. Additional publications include quarterly and annual reports and reports submitted by NASA to the U.S. Congress.

## **Sub-series 2: STS-95**

**Boxes 75 – 89**

The STS-95 Sub-series consists of nine cubic feet of records and six oversized boxes of materials documenting John Glenn's return to space in 1998 as a crew member aboard the *Space Shuttle Discovery* Mission STS-95. Materials within the sub-series date from 1993 to 2000, though the bulk of the materials date from 1998 to 1999. Items within the sub-series are divided into the two major categories of working files and fan mail.

The six cubic feet of working files (boxes 75-80) consist of the briefing materials, mission and training manuals, personal files, newspaper clippings, publications, and trip files compiled and used by Glenn during his training for the STS-95 mission, during his time in space aboard the *Space Shuttle Discovery*, and during the events following the mission. Most of the briefing materials, mission manuals, and training manuals within the sub-series pertain to the training John Glenn underwent to become familiar with the operation of various onboard systems, equipment, and other aspects of the space shuttle. Other manuals contain information on procedures for shuttle launch, landing, and emergency situations, as well as information on mission rules, schedules, and flight plans. Additional manuals and briefing materials pertain to the experiments planned during the mission, with an emphasis on a variety of investigations into the relationship between space flight and the aging process. Also included are materials on the shuttle mission payloads, such as the Spartan solar-observing spacecraft, the Hubble Space Telescope Orbital Systems Test Platform, and the SPACEHAB science module.

The personal files contain general information on the shuttle mission, biographical sketches of the mission's astronauts, and a variety of materials pertaining to John Glenn's personal involvement in the STS-95 mission. Included in the files are reports containing the results of the various medical experiments Glenn undertook during the mission. Other files consist of Glenn's speeches, news releases, press conferences, and articles. Additional files contain educational materials about Glenn's activities as a space shuttle astronaut and the *Space Shuttle Discovery* mission designed for schoolchildren. The personal files also include a number of correspondence files containing letters sent to Glenn prior to and after the space flight. Much of the correspondence is from the general public and consists of invitations, requests, and business offers. Other correspondence files contain congratulatory letters from VIPs, family members, and friends. Of special note is a copy of the e-mail message sent to Glenn by President William Clinton during the shuttle mission.

The newspaper clippings include chronological files of articles on Glenn's pre-flight training, space shuttle flight, and post-flight activities. The clippings date from January 1997 to May 1999 and include articles published by a variety of major domestic newspapers. Separate files contain articles published by newspapers in some foreign countries. Other clippings files contain

editorials, cartoons, and articles from various Internet web sites. Another series of clippings, labeled Space Clips, contain articles on the STS-95 mission compiled by members of Glenn's senate office staff. This series dates from February 1998 and from October to December 1998. Complementing the newspaper clippings is a small number of NASA publications, including press kits on the STS-95 mission and informational materials on NASA in general.

The trip files contain correspondence, programs, schedules, and related materials on the pre-flight and post-flight activities of the *Space Shuttle Discovery* astronauts. Included is information on the ticker-tape parade held in New York City on November 16, 1998 honoring the *Space Shuttle Discovery* astronauts, along with files on the trips the shuttle crew took to Europe and Japan in January 1999. Other files contain materials on events honoring John Glenn prior to the shuttle mission, and on the trips he and his family made in 1998 to the Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The fan mail consists of three cubic feet of materials (boxes 81-83), along with six oversized boxes of postcards and scrapbooks (boxes 84-89), sent to John Glenn by the general public from 1997 to 2000. Contained within the first two boxes is a sampling of the tens of thousands of letters Glenn received from admirers across the country and around the world praising his determination to return to space at age seventy-seven. In processing this extensive amount of fan mail, it first was sorted into the categories of adult, children, foreign, poetry, and senior citizens. A random sampling then was done of each category, with one in ten letters kept for the collection. Letters within the collection are arranged alphabetically by category, with letters within each category arranged alphabetically by state or foreign country. An additional category, school class packets, contains packets of letters written by children in elementary school classes from around the country. These letters typically were bound together and sent to Glenn with a cover letter written by the class teacher. Ten percent of these school class packets, taken from a random sampling, are alphabetically arranged by state within the fan mail collection.

Included within the fan mail collection are three files and one oversized box containing printed copies of postcard submissions emailed to John Glenn by the general public. These email postcards were sent via the "Godspeed, John Glenn" link on the Spaceday.com Internet web site maintained by the Lockheed Martin Corporation from October 6 to November 9, 1998. Also located within the collection are twenty-four guest books dating from August 1998 to March 1999. These guest books contain inscriptions to John Glenn written by approximately 40,000 visitors to an exhibit commemorating Glenn's return to space displayed at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in Titusville, Florida.

The fan mail also includes five oversized boxes (boxes 85-89) containing a sampling of the dozens of scrapbooks on the *Space Shuttle Discovery* space flight sent to John Glenn by elementary school classes. Similar in nature to the school class packets, these scrapbooks may also contain newspaper and magazine clippings and children's artwork, as well as letters written by school children.