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NMMC Opens New Temporary Exhibition about Marine Astronauts

Triangle, VA - The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) takes visitors one step beyond the air, land, and sea with *Spaceflight: The Marine Astronauts*, a new temporary exhibition featuring artifacts and imagery from Marine astronauts who have made and continue to make significant contributions to the space program.

Marines have served on space flight missions since the 1960s. The accomplishments and sacrifices of individual Marine astronauts have provided substantial contributions to NASA's space exploration missions.

"The Marine Corps has always been a multi-domain force, fighting in the air, on land, and sea. This new exhibit looks at Marines in yet another environment: space. Marines have been a part of America's Space Program from the very beginning, and will continue to contribute at all levels into the future. I think visitors will be surprised just how much Marines have contributed to the exploration of space!" said NMMC Aviation Curator Larry Burke.

The exhibit is divided into three sections that cover distinctive phases of the space program. Artifacts, imagery, and personal narratives tell stories that are literally out of this world! Artifact highlights in the exhibition include: the custom flight suit that Col Randy "Komrade" Bresnik wore on the Marine Corps birthday while in orbit as commander of the International Space Station; the communications headset that Marine astronaut Ronnie Walter Cunningham used on Apollo 7; and the rescue harness sling and crook used to recover Alan B. Shephard after his *Freedom 7* spacecraft landed in the Atlantic Ocean.

Spaceflight: The Marine Astronauts runs through January 2024. Check the Museum's social media and website for special programming during the run of this temporary exhibition.

The Museum is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The National Museum of the Marine Corps, under the command of Marine Corps University, preserves and exhibits the material history of the U.S. Marine Corps; honors the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of Marines; supports recruitment, training, education, and retention of Marines; and provides the public with a readily accessible platform for the exploration of Marine Corps history. It is located at 1775 Semper Fidelis Way in Triangle, VA and is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily except December 25. Admission and parking

are free. For more information, call 703-784-6107 or visit us on the web at www.usmcmuseum.com.