

Space Image: The Trajectory

May 6 2011

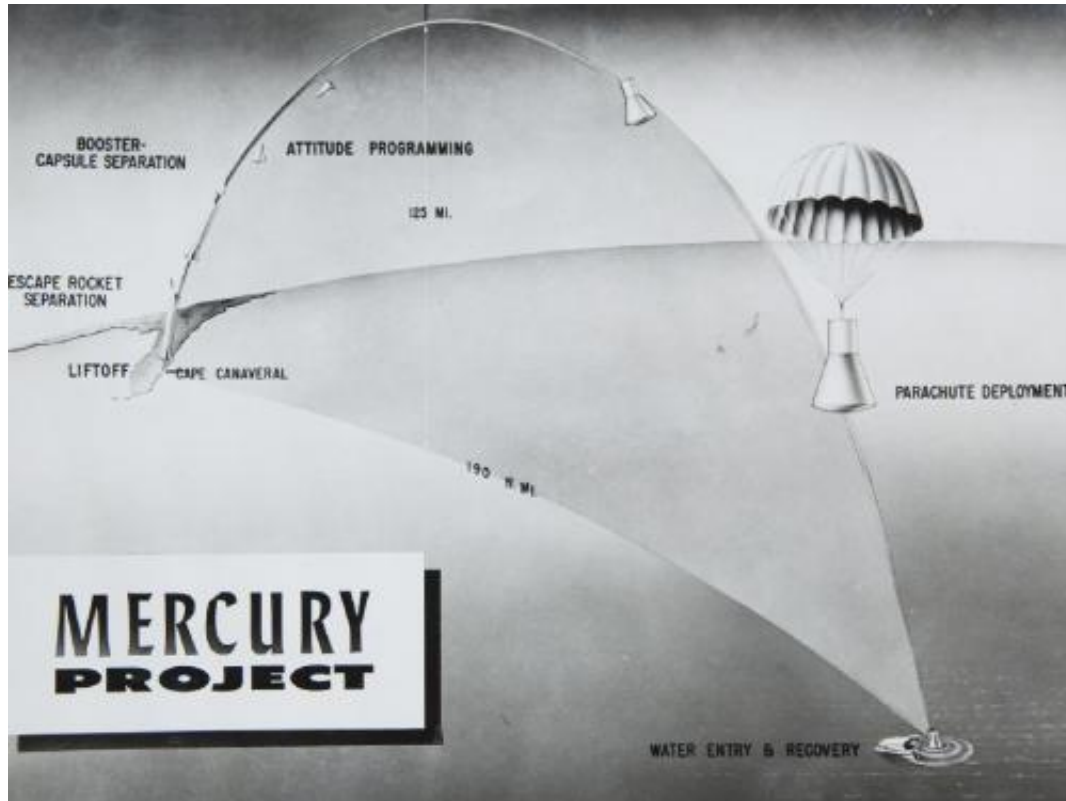


Image Credit: NASA

(PhysOrg.com) -- Fifty years ago on May 5, 1961 only 23 day after Yuri Gagarin of the then-Soviet Union became the first person in space, NASA astronaut Alan Shepard launched at 9:34 a.m. EDT aboard his Freedom 7 capsule powered by a Redstone booster to become the first American in space. His historic flight lasted 15 minutes, 28 seconds.

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[Stamp honors 1st American in space 50 years later](#)

Provided by JPL/NASA

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