

Mr. Gerald T. Huser

1500 Sheridan Road
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906
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Dr. William Thornton
Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear Dr. Thornton:

I am a junior at Purdue University in Air Force ROTC. Each spring the entire junior class conducts a "space project"; this project involves everything from the design of the spacecraft and the power system to the selection of the astronauts for the mission.

Our committee is the "Selection and Training" committee, and it involves literally just that. We have found abundant information about the astronaut corps, etc., but we are at a loss for specific information, especially about non-pilot, or scientist astronauts, like yourself. I have been told that currently, even the scientists astronauts must learn to pilot jet aircraft, and must learn to do many other things the commanders of the space ship must do. Since you are an expert on this subject, I would very much appreciate any information you can give me on the following:

- 1) The physical, mental, and skill requirements for scientist-astronauts; i.e. weight, height, flight hours needed, degree of education etc.
- 2) Physical, psychological, and skill tests the selectees must pass.
- 3) The type and amount of training non-pilot astronauts must go thru before their final selection.
- 4) Also, Dr. Thornton, in my lowly opinion, I think that the physical requirements will be less stringent in the years to come, but I think the mental and psychological screening will be more stringent especially for longer time periods. Please give me your opinion on this topic.

The goal of the "Selection and Training" committee is to set standards for selection, and initiate any additional training that the crew will need. We assume that astronaut training institutions such as NASA, will train the crew members for our needs, but we must set the standards required for our particular mission.

The "space laboratory" that our class is designing will be manned by a pilot commander and co-commander, and by non-pilot technicians and scientists. (By the time of this mission, late 1980's I feel that the scientists will not be required to be able to fly. Please tell me if you think that this will be the case!) Dr. Thornton I have written to NASA already concerning pilot astronauts, so I am in need of information especially for non-pilot scientists. Please send any information you have available concerning the selection and training of scientists. Thank you kindly!

Sincerely yours,

Gerald T. Huser

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P.S. Please rush because this report is due in 1 month. Thanks Again!