

# Conrad, Bean to command two Skylab missions next year

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP)—Crews for the Skylab program, an orbiting science workshop which will be visited by three groups of astronauts next year for missions of up to 56 days, were named Tuesday by the space agency.

Commanders of the crews will be two men who have walked on the moon and a space rookie.

Charles Conrad Jr., a three-time space veteran who commanded the Apollo 12 moon mission, will command the first crew, which will live in the orbiting skylab for up to 28 days. His crewmates will be Dr. Joseph P.

Kerwin, a physician-astronaut, and Paul J. Weitz, a pilot astronaut.

Commander of the second mission is Alan L. Bean, who walked on the moon with Conrad during Apollo 12. With Bean on the crew are Dr. Owen K. Garriott, a scientist-astronaut, and Jack R. Lousma, a pilot astronaut.

The third mission will be commanded by Gerald P. Carr. His crewmates will be Dr. Edward G. Gibson, a scientist-astronaut,

and William R. Pogue, a pilot-astronaut.

The second and third crews will spend up to 56 days orbiting the earth in Skylab.

Skylab is a space laboratory designed to study the earth and the sun with remote sensing devices and telescopes. The spacecraft will test the use of remote sensors to gather information on the earth's environment, land and water use, agriculture, foresters and geology. The telescope system

will take films of the sun for later study on the earth.

The mission is scheduled to start April 30, 1973, with the launch of the unmanned Skylab vehicle. The first first crew will be launched the next day. The astronauts will ride into space aboard an Apollo command craft and then dock and board the orbiting laboratory for a 28-day stay.

At the end of their stay, the crew will return to earth aboard

the Apollo spacecraft.

The second crew will be launched July 30 for a 56-day visit. The final mission will begin Oct. 28.

Conrad, 41, a navy captain, has spent a total of 506 hours in space. These came on the earth orbit flights of Gemini 5, in 1962, on Gemini 11, in 1966, and on Apollo 12, the second manned moon landing in 1969.

Kerwin, 39, as a member of Conrad's crew, will become the first doctor in space. The Navy

commander holds a doctor of medicine degree from Northwestern University.

Weitz, 39, the third member of the first crew, is a Navy commander who has never flown into space.

Bean, 39, commander of the second Skylab mission, is a Navy captain. His first space mission was as lunar module pilot on Apollo 12.

Neither of Bean's crewmates—Garriott, 41, and Lousma, 35—

have flown into space. Garriott, a civilian, holds a doctorate in electrical engineering and has done research in ionospheric physics.

Lousma, a Marine Corps pilot, is a former fighter pilot. The three members of the Skylab crew are space veterans. Carr, 39, the commander, lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, is a civilian who has a doctorate in engineering. Gibson, 42, and an Air Force lieutenant colonel.

## Conference on earth material held in February

A national conference on rapid penetration of terrestrial materials will be conducted at A&M Feb. 1-3.

Conference topics include use of various types of projectiles for high-speed penetration of soil, rock, water, ice or frozen soil material. Such projectiles may be launched by a variety of means, including aircraft.

The meeting is jointly sponsored by Sandia Laboratories, the Soil and Mechanics & Foundation Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers and TAMU's Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Technical papers will be presented by representatives from industry and the military, as well as by research and educational institutions, noted John L. Colp, conference coordinator. Colp is on leave of absence from Sandia while studying for a Ph.D. degree at TAMU.

Rapid penetration of terrestrial materials is a field pioneered by Sandia, an Albuquerque-based Western Electric subsidiary operating under a non-profit contract with the Atomic Energy Commission. TAMU has been working with Sandia several years and established a special terramechanics laboratory here with the group's assistance.

Techniques involving rapid penetration have application in mining, drilling cratering, pile-driving and tillage, Colp noted.

He added that the technique also may be important in earthquake and ocean-bottom studies and disposal of radioactive materials. He said the technique might also be used to penetrate the surface of other planets to learn what lies beneath.

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