

Preface

The Astronaut AlmanacTM is compiled from official biographies of NASA astronauts maintained by the Johnson Space Center. The biographies are updated irregularly and, in the case of some former astronauts, apparently not at all. The January 2005 edition of the *Astronaut Fact Book* [NASA SP-2005-01-001JSC] provides the military rank listed at the top of each biographical entry.

In many cases it is difficult to determine whether an astronaut remains eligible for flight assignments. This is particularly true for those listed by NASA as “management” astronauts. Astronauts who are neither “former” nor management can only be presumed to be still active (available for flight assignments).

The Astronaut Almanac is issued in two volumes, one covering pilot astronauts and one covering non-pilot astronauts. Rather than define a group of people by what they are not, the Almanac groups all types of non-pilots under the single label “specialist astronaut.” Thus, specialist astronaut includes the scientist astronauts of the 1960s, the mission specialists of the shuttle era, and the newly created educator astronauts. Educator astronauts are so listed in the Almanac.

The Astronaut Almanac includes only persons hired by NASA for a career in its ballistic manned spaceflight programs (Mercury through Shuttle/Space Station). Thus, unless later hired by NASA for a career in one of these programs, the Almanac does not include:

- Payload specialists
- Pilots who earned astronaut wings in the X-15 program
- Pilots selected for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory program
- Pilots selected for the X-20 (DynaSoar) program
- Members of foreign space agencies.

These volumes would not have been possible without Donald Knuth’s remarkable T_EX typesetting system.