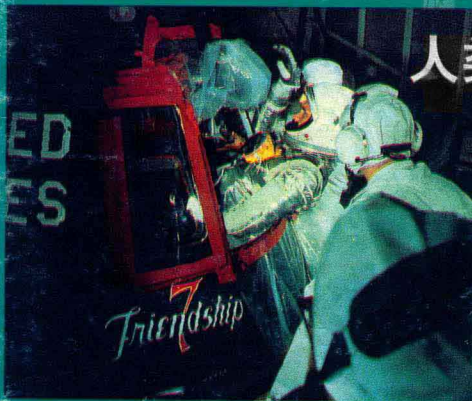


# FRIENDSHIP 7

First American in Orbit



人类征服太空的历程  
(英汉读本)

Michael D. Cole 著  
高铁铮 梁代华 译  
广西科学技术出版社

第一个环绕地球飞行的美国人——

# 友谊 7 号

人类征服太空的历程

# 友谊 7 号

——第一个环绕地球飞行的美国人

---

英汉读本

---

## FRIENDSHIP 7

First American in Orbit

Michael D. Cole

---

高铁铮 梁代华 译

广西科学技术出版社

Original Title:

Friendship 7: First American in Orbit

Author: Michael D. Cole

Original Publisher: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Copyright © 1995 by Michael D. Cole

Chinese Copyright © 1998 Guangxi Science and Technology Publishing House

Chinese Copyright Intermediary: Tao Media International (U.S.A.) and

Vantage Copyright Agency (P.R. China)

版权中介: 美国美达亚国际公司 广西万达版权代理公司

人类征服太空的历程(英汉读本)

**友谊7号——第一位环绕地球飞行的美国人**

作者: 迈克尔·D·科尔

译者: 高铁铮 梁代华

责任编辑: 罗珏玲

封面设计: 潘爱清

责任校对: 刘晓春

责任印制: 梁 冰

出版: 广西科学技术出版社

(南宁市东葛路66号 邮政编码530022)

发行: 广西新华书店

印刷: 广西民族印刷厂

(南宁市明秀西路53号 邮政编码530001)

出版日期: 1999年9月第1版 1999年9月第1次印刷

开本: 787×1092 1/32

印张: 1.75

字数: 43 700

书号: ISBN 7-80619-769-9/N·83

桂图登字: 20-98-021号

定价: 6.40元

# CONTENTS

1	Ready for Launch .....	5
2	American in Orbit .....	13
3	Trouble in Space .....	20
4	Fireball in Space .....	27
5	A Hero Returns .....	34
	<b>中译文</b> .....	42



---

*John Glenn is helped into the Friendship 7 spacecraft on the day of his history-making flight.*

---



“T minus one minute and counting. All systems are reported in Go condition. John Glenn is ready.”

The day was February 20, 1962. After weeks and months of delays, astronaut John Glenn was finally about to be launched into space. If the launch was successful, Glenn would become the first American to orbit Earth. Glenn sat in the cramped cockpit of his spacecraft, *Friendship 7*. His own teenage children, Carolyn and David, had given the craft its name.

As Glenn waited for launch, his friend and fellow astronaut Scott Carpenter took a call from Glenn's wife, Annie. He put it through to the spacecraft. Glenn spoke to Annie and their children.

He told them about the clouds he saw rolling by

above him. He cranked out his periscope and told them he could see the ground and the launchpad below him. He said he could feel the rocket swaying gently in the wind. He also could hear its metal skin snapping and pinging as the tanks were filled with super-cold liquid hydrogen fuel. Then he had to say good-bye to them. Maybe for the last time.

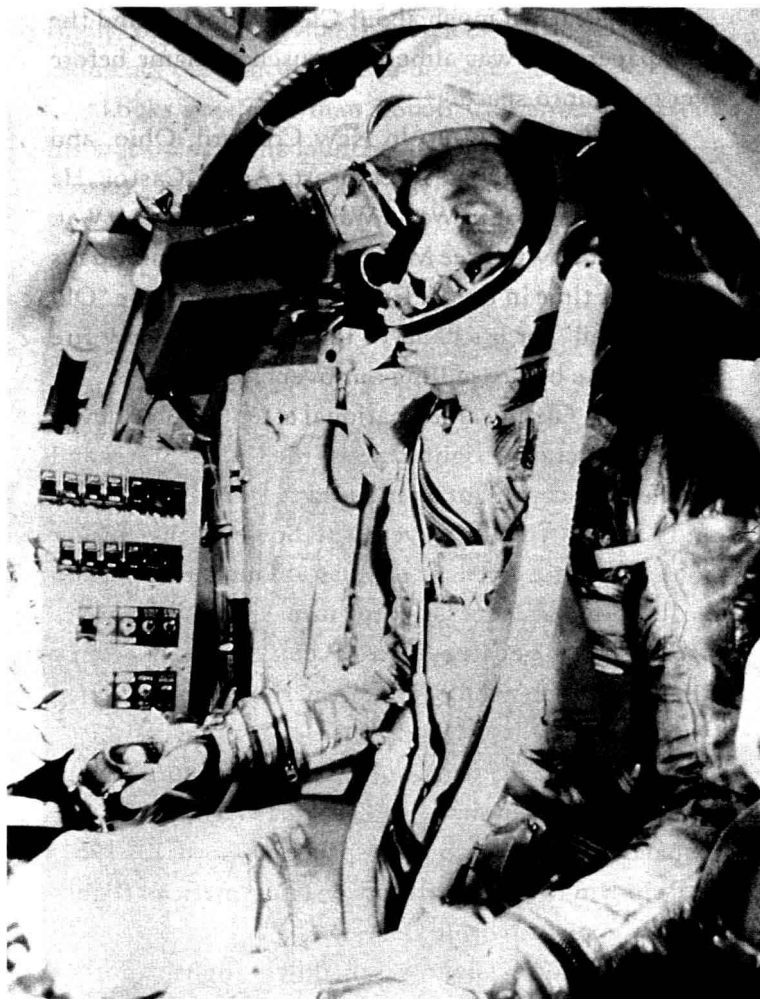
No one had ever flown on top of an Atlas rocket. It had a history of failure. If it failed today, Glenn would probably be killed. Three years of training to go into space could end today in a fiery explosion. Or he could fly successfully into orbit, and so fly into history. This was a risk John Glenn was willing to take.

Millions of people around the world watched this drama unfold across their television screens. Bad weather and problems with the rocket had pushed the launch date back several times. The delays focused further attention on John Glenn and the dangerous challenge he was prepared to face.

---

*Astronaut John Glenn wore a specially designed spacesuit for his flight.*





*John Glenn sat in the cramped cockpit of his spacecraft as he awaited the launch.*

People learned much about Glenn from TV and the newspapers. He was almost a household name before ever going into space.

John Glenn grew up in New Concord, Ohio, and married his childhood sweetheart, Annie Castor. He was a Marine pilot in World War II and the Korean War. Glenn shot down three MiG fighter planes in nine days during his time in Korea. He also earned the name “Old Magnet Tail” for his habit of taking heavy enemy fire on his plane before pulling out over targets.

In 1957, Glenn gained national attention. He flew a F8U Crusader navy fighter across the United States and set the transcontinental jet speed record.

That was the same year the Soviets (the former Communist government of Russia) launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite, into space. Two years later, Glenn became one of the seven Mercury astronauts who would pilot America’s first manned space flights.

Two Americans had gone into space before Glenn. But a Soviet cosmonaut named Yuri Gagarin was the first person ever to go into space, on April 12, 1961. Gagarin had orbited Earth once. The American flights had not gone into orbit.

Weeks before Glenn’s scheduled flight, another Soviet had orbited the Earth *sixteen times*. People in the United States, in western Europe, and other parts of the world were watching and hoping that Glenn’s

flight could match what the Soviets had done. In a few moments the waiting would be over.

"Looks good, old man," Scott Carpenter said from his station near the launchpad.

"Boy, can you imagine?" Glenn answered. "Here we go."

"Hot dog," Carpenter said.



*John Glenn (left) chatted with fellow astronaut Scott Carpenter (right) before the launch.*

Glenn listened to the voices in his headset. A final systems check signaled the countdown's final moments.

"Status check. Pressurization."

"Go."

"I have a blinking high-level light."

"You are go. Water Systems."

"Go."

"Range Operations."

"Go. Clear to launch."

"Mercury capsule."

"Go."

"All pre-start pilot lights are correct. The ready light is on. Eject Mercury umbilical. Oil evacuate."

"Mercury umbilical clear."

"Oil evacuate light is on."

"All recorders to fast. T minus eighteen seconds and counting. Engines start."

Two of the station communicators wished Glenn well.



---

*Astronaut Scott Carpenter, a friend of John Glenn's, wished him luck before the flight.*

"May the wayward winds be with you," said one.

"Good Lord ride all the way," said another.

From his friend Scott Carpenter came a final wish, and the countdown's last seconds. "God speed, John Glenn. Ten . . . Nine . . . Eight . . . Seven . . . Six . . . Five . . . Four . . . Three . . . Two . . . One . . . Zero."

The rocket engines rumbled to life. A thick cloud of smoke mushroomed out to surround the launchpad. Bright orange flames gushed from beneath the Atlas rocket as it began to rise.

"Roger. The clock is operating. We're underway," Glenn said. His voice was shaking as the rocket shook him on the bumpy ride.

---

*Friendship 7 blasted off on the morning of February 20, 1962. Aboard was astronaut John Glenn.*



Crowds along the beaches and roads surrounding Cape Canaveral, Florida, cheered as they watched Glenn's spacecraft thunder into the sky. They had waited a long time to see the launch. Now, the view of the rocket climbing higher and higher toward space was truly a thrilling sight.

John Glenn managed to keep himself calm during the exciting launch. But his adventure aboard *Friendship 7* was only beginning. Before it was over, the flight would challenge his skill as an astronaut, and greatly test his courage.



# 2

## **American in Orbit**

Only two minutes after liftoff, *Friendship 7* was passing the speed of sound and rocketing faster and faster into space. John Glenn told Mercury Control the flight was “smoothing out real fine . . . flight very smooth now. Sky looking very dark outside.”

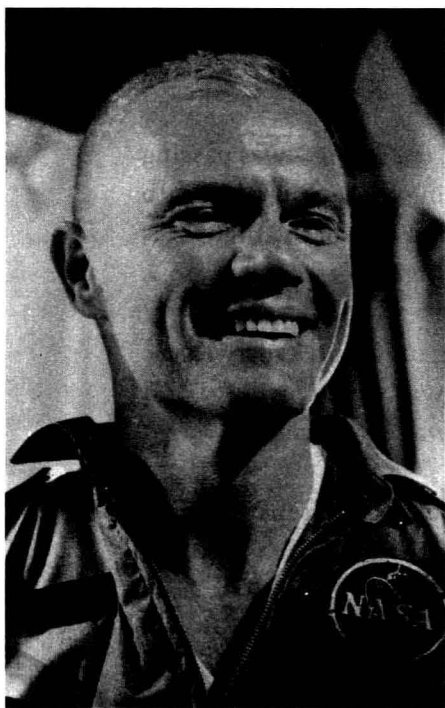
The G forces were building on Glenn’s body as the rocket accelerated. His body was experiencing six Gs pressing down on him. This was six times his weight on Earth.

In a few moments the capsule would separate itself from the Atlas rocket and Glenn would be in orbit.

“Seven, Cape is Go. We’re standing by for you,” said Alan Shepard at Mercury Control. Shepard was also an astronaut. He had been the first American to go into space.

“Roger,” Glenn said, “Cape is Go and I am Go. Capsule is in good shape.” Suddenly he heard the explosive bolts separate the capsule from the rocket. He lurched forward slightly against his seat straps. Then he noticed that he floated there. The G forces were gone. He was weightless in space.

“Zero G and I feel fine,” Glenn said. “Capsule is turning around.” *Friendship 7* rolled over. Out his window, Glenn saw his first view of Earth from space. “Oh, that view is tremendous!”



Glenn also saw the Atlas rocket falling away below him. “The capsule is turning around and I can see the booster doing turnarounds just a couple of hundred yards behind me. It was beautiful.”

“Roger, Seven,” Shepard said. “You have a Go, at least seven orbits.” Only three orbits were planned, but Shepard’s comment confirmed *Friendship 7* had

---

*John Glenn managed to keep himself calm during his exciting launch. His easy smile helped make him popular with the public.*

achieved an orbit stable enough to make at least seven orbits.

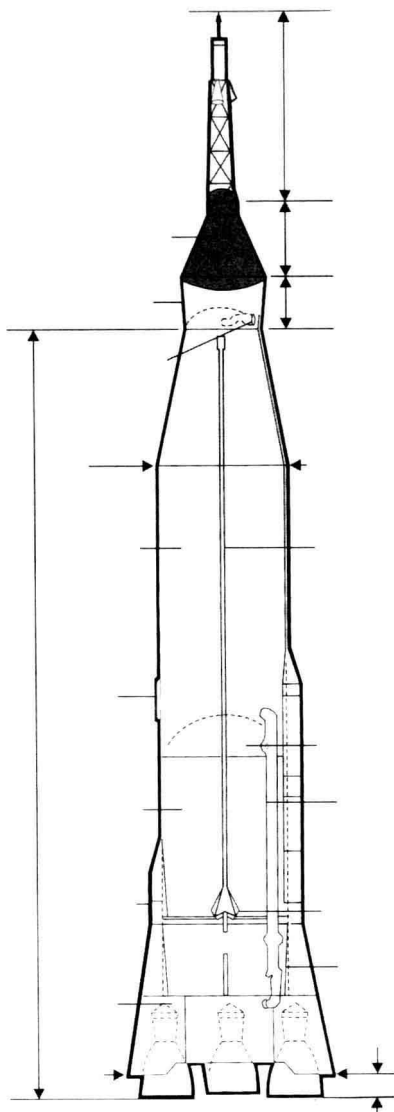
“Roger. Understand Go for at least seven orbits. This is *Friendship 7*. Can see clear back, a big cloud pattern way back across towards the Cape. Beautiful sight.”

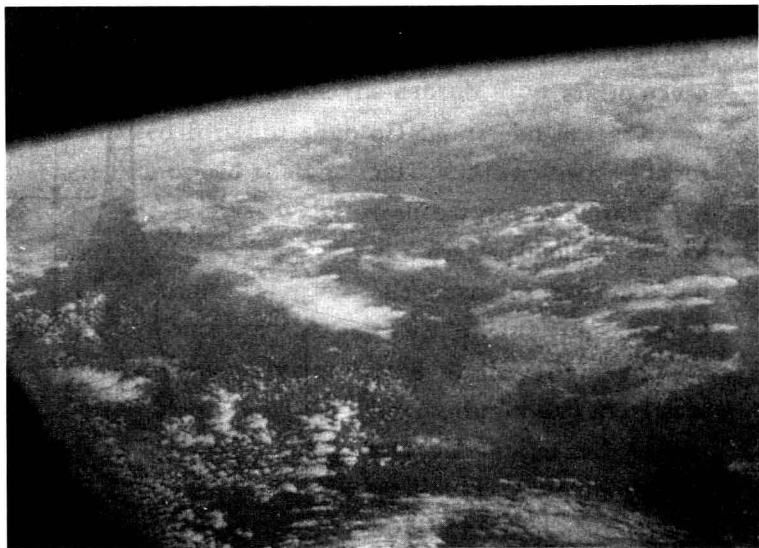
The sight Glenn saw was from one hundred and twenty-five miles above the Earth. He was travelling through space at 17,500 miles per hour. After years of hard training, John Glenn was now the first American in orbit.

The view of Earth was a tremendous sight. But Glenn had a lot of work to do as he flew over the Atlantic Ocean toward Africa.

---

*Friendship 7 was launched using an Atlas rocket such as the one diagrammed here. Note the spacecraft only takes up a small portion of the rocket's length.*





*John Glenn's view of the Atlantic Ocean as seen from space. He had a magnificent view of Earth below him.*

Glenn tested the control thrusters, and made checks of many of the spacecraft's systems. He reported information about the capsule to tracking stations in Bermuda, the Canary Islands, and Zanzibar. He was the first American astronaut in orbit, so he told them about his sensations.

"This is very comfortable at zero G," Glenn said. "I have nothing but very fine feeling. It just feels very normal and very good."

Glenn saw large dust storms as he went over Africa. His orbit continued around to the dark side of Earth,