

SPACE

Crew named for Apollo flight





Gemini 8 Command pilot Neil Armstrong is welcomed by his wife and two sons, Mark, 2, and Eric, 8, after he and astronaut David Scott arrived back at Houston, Texas, after the aborted Gemini-8 space flight last week. — Radio picture.

HOUSTON, Tuesday (AAP-Reuter). — The United States space agency named two veteran astronauts and one

States space agency named two veteran astronauts and one novice yesterday to fly the first manned Apollo moonship in an earth-orbit shake-down flight, which is tentatively set for late this year.

They are Gus Grissom, Edward White and newcomer Roger Chaffee.

The back-up crew for the mission will be James McDivitt, David Scott and newcomer Russell Schweickart.

At the same time, the crew for the Gemini II was named.

This two-man mission, tentatively scheduled for September or October, will be flown by veteran Charles Conrad and novice Richard Gordon.

Grissom is to become the first man to go into space for a third time.

White, the first American space walker, flew the Gemini 4 mission with McDivitt last June, and floated free in space for 20 minutes during the flight.

Chaffee, a 30-year-old Navy lieutenant, is a member of the third group of American astronauts chosen in October, 1963.

McDivitt, the back-up commander for the first Apollo, is considered by space agency observers to be a prime candidate for a seat on the first American lunar voyage.

Scott, with Neil Arm-

strong, flew Gemini 8 into the first linkup in orbit last week before making an emergency return to earth.

Schweickart, one of the third group of astronauts, is a 30-year-old civilian.

Conrad, chosen as Gemini 11 commander, went into space aboard Gemini 5 with Mercury astronaut

Gordon Cooper for eight days last August.

Gordon, named as Conrad's space partner, is a 36-year-old Navy lieutenant-commander.

Swamp mystery

NEW YORK, Tuesday (AAP). — An investigation was launched yesterday into reports of an unidentified flying object landing in a swamp near Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Sunday.

The State police commissioner and head of civil defence, Mr Frederick E. Davids, who authorised the investigation, said, "I used to discount these reports, but now I'm not so sure."

About 60 people reported that a huge football-shaped flying object, pulsing with light and escorted by four hovering sister ships, landed in the swamp.

The 60 included 12

policemen, one of whom said he and other residents of the area saw similar craft early last Monday and Wednesday.

In Washington, the US Air Force said it knew nothing of the reports.

The Air Force's Michigan headquarters in Battle Creek, the central point for radar reports throughout the State, would not talk to newsmen.