



**FIRST AMERICAN
IN SPACE**

1
00:00:02,080 --> 00:00:11,360

On the morning of May 5th, 1961 the primary goal of Project Mercury came sharply into

2
00:00:11,360 --> 00:00:15,280
focus

3
00:00:15,280 --> 00:00:22,880
to evaluate the performance of a manned spacecraft system and evaluate the effects of space flight

4
00:00:22,880 --> 00:00:29,420
on the astronaut Alan B. Shepard traveled the 59 feet up the gantry.

5
00:00:29,420 --> 00:00:32,029
The hatch was secured.

6
00:00:32,029 --> 00:00:37,690
For those who watched and waited, an even more basic objective was recognized our nation

7
00:00:37,690 --> 00:00:39,631
was about to meet the challenge of manned space flight.

8
00:00:39,631 --> 00:00:46,080
The launch vehicle and the spacecraft named Freedom 7 were go.

9
00:00:46,080 --> 00:00:49,030
The launch pad crews and downrange recovery forces were go.

10
00:00:49,030 --> 00:01:09,700
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Liftoff, and the clock has started!

11
00:01:09,700 --> 00:01:32,150

This is Freedom 7

12

00:01:32,150 --> 00:02:00,210

Pressure is holding at 5.5

13

00:02:00,210 --> 00:02:06,500

The Mercury Redstone 3 flight with astronaut Alan Shepard at the controls traveled 300

14

00:02:06,500 --> 00:02:21,730

miles, reached an altitude of 115 miles and experienced about five minutes of Zero G

15

00:02:21,730 --> 00:02:29,760

Astronaut Shepard in Mercury spacecraft Freedom 7 began his long plunge back to Earth

16

00:02:29,760 --> 00:02:34,950

the first American to achieve spaceflight was successfully recovered from Mercury spacecraft

17

00:02:34,950 --> 00:02:40,080

Freedom 7