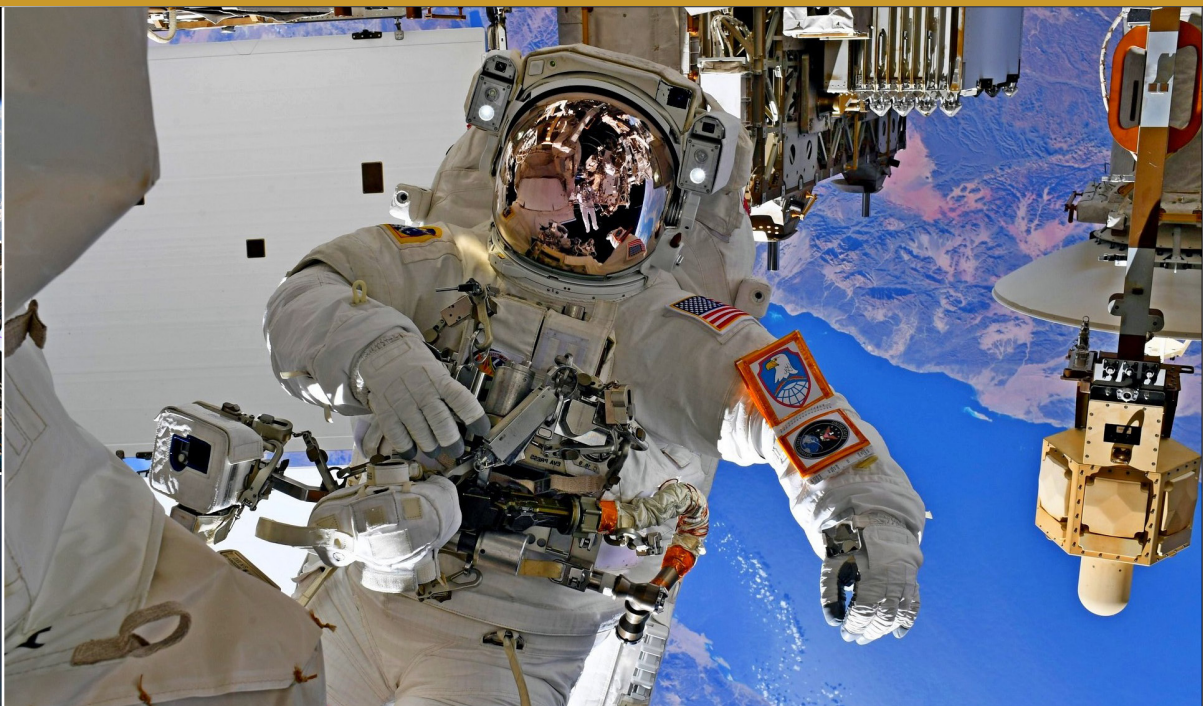




# UNITED STATES ARMY NASA DETACHMENT



*The U.S. Army NASA Detachment supports NASA with flight crew members and provides engineering expertise for human interface with space systems*



The U.S. Army's extensive involvement in the nation's space program and close work with NASA dates back to the launch in 1958 of Explorer 1, the United States' first satellite, and it was a U.S. Army rocket that carried the first U.S. astronaut into space. Throughout the years, NASA has selected 19 Army astronauts to fly aboard the Space Shuttle or Russian Soyuz spacecraft with several additionally serving aboard the International Space Station.

## NOTEWORTHY FACTS

- Retired BG Robert L. Stewart became the Army's first astronaut in 1978.
- There are three active-duty Army astronauts.
- The Army Astronaut Detachment consists of astronauts, operations officers, and one Department of the Army civilian.
- Retired Col. Mark Vande Hei holds NASA's record for the most days living aboard the International Space Station in a single mission at 355 days.



# UNITED STATES ARMY NASA DETACHMENT

The U.S. Army NASA Detachment is a subordinate element to U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Although assigned to the command, Army astronauts are detailed to NASA for the duration of their assignment as astronauts.

The detachment is located in Houston, Texas, at the Johnson Space Center. There are currently six personnel assigned to the detachment including three astronauts, two functional area-40 space operations officers, and one Department of the Army civilian providing administrative support.

Although Army astronauts and the Army astronaut detachment comprise only a tiny fraction of the Army's space assets, Army astronauts' participation in NASA's human spaceflight program help to inform Army space requirements and doctrine and are key to maintaining relationships with space industry partners.

To qualify as an astronaut, each applicant undergoes 18 months of initial screening, followed by 24 additional months of training to become eligible for spaceflight. A new astronaut class is selected approximately every four years. The selection rate for the most recent (2020) class was less than 0.1 percent.

Like other NASA astronauts, the current Army astronauts are trained and certified on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft and are also trained to perform tasks aboard the ISS. These tasks include: biomedical, hardware and technology experiments; Extra-Vehicular Activity, or space walks; ISS maintenance tasks; and intensive Russian-language training. Additionally, they conduct public affairs outreach/engagement, serving as diplomats for NASA's human spaceflight program and the U.S. Army.



## CURRENT ARMY ASTRONAUTS

### COL ANDREW MORGAN (M.D.)

*Detachment Commander  
(Medical Corps)*

- Space flight – ISS Expeditions 60, 61, and 62
- Space walks (seven)
- Medical doctor
- Airborne/Ranger/combat diver
- Combat veteran
- West Point, class of 1998

### COL ANNE MCCLAIN

*(Aviation)*

- Space flight – ISS Expeditions 58 and 59
- Space walks (two)
- Aviator: OH-45D, UH-60, and C-12 pilot
- Test pilot
- Air assault
- Combat veteran
- West Point, class of 2002

### LTC FRANK RUBIO (M.D.)

*(Medical Corps)*

- Space flight – currently on Expedition 68
- Space walks (three)
- Former aviator
- Medical doctor
- Airborne qualified
- Combat veteran
- West Point, class of 1998



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