Thomas P. Stafford Encyclopedia Article

Thomas P. Stafford

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Thomas P. Stafford

1930-

American astronaut who was the first U.S. general in space. A Naval Academy alumnus, Stafford completed flight training and became an instructor at Edwards Air Force Base. He piloted *Gemini 6* and *9* in 1965 and 1966, respectively. As commander of the 1969 *Apollo 10* flight, he tested the lunar module. In 1975 Stafford was the American commander for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, the first international spaceflight. He served as chief of the astronaut office and deputy director of flight crew operations.