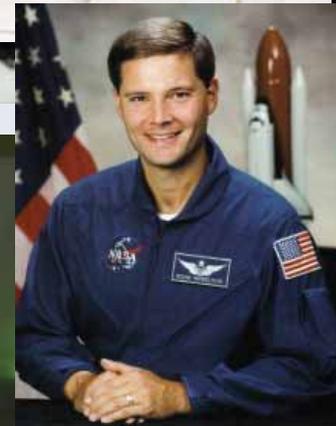
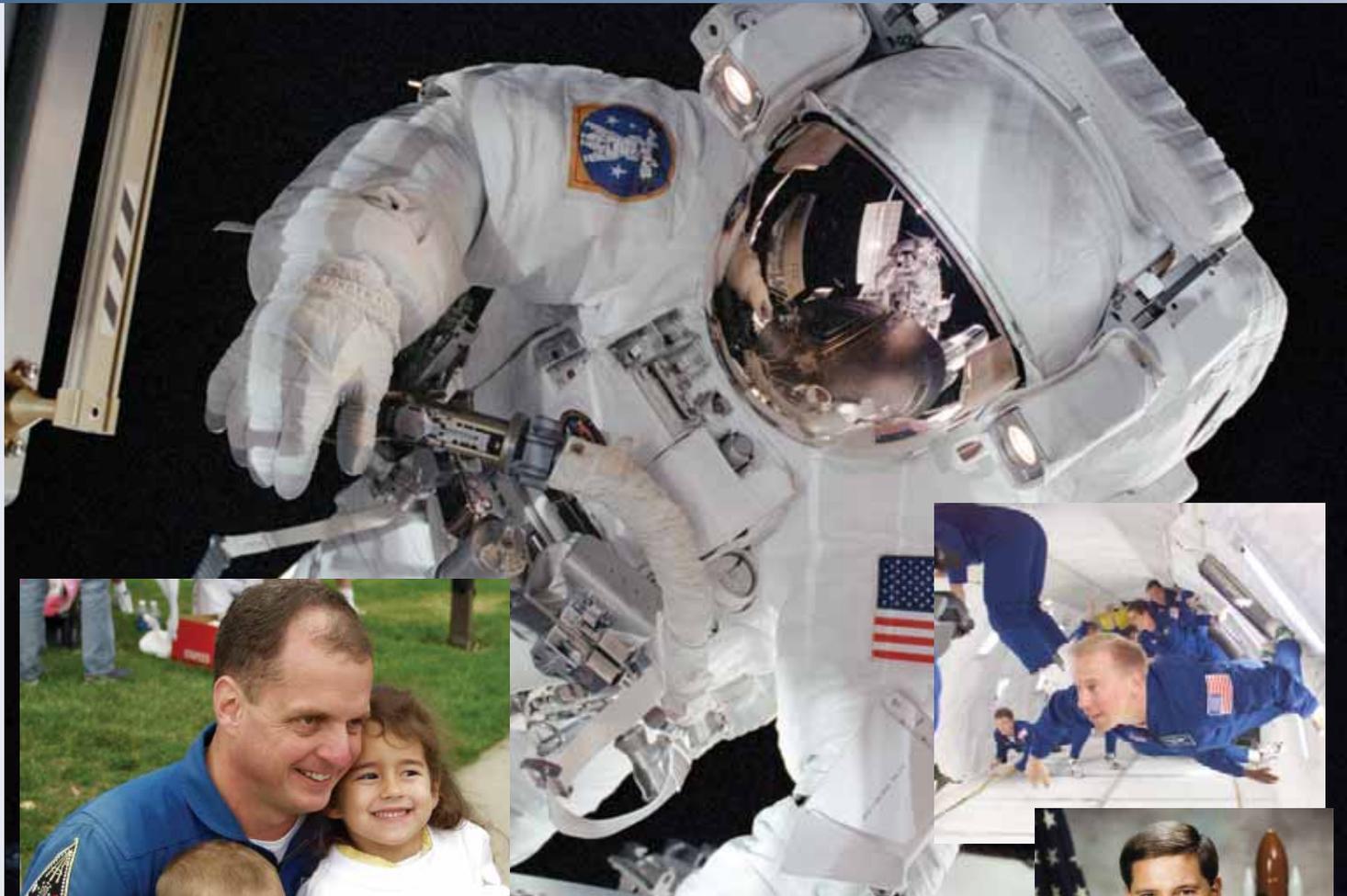


The Flipside — Army Astronauts



There are now seven astronauts in the U.S. Army Astronaut Detachment. They are clockwise from top, COL Patrick Forrester, LTC Timothy Kopra, LTC Doug Wheelock, COL Jeff Williams, COL Nancy Currie, LTC Timothy J. Creamer and on the opposite page, the newest astronaut, MAJ Shane Kimbrough.

NEW ARMY ASTRONAUT NAMED



Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. — Another Soldier will join the ranks of NASA Astronauts and the Army Astronaut Detachment. MAJ Shane Kimbrough will be among 14 individuals — three Japanese, four military and seven civilians — announced as the 2004 class of astronaut candidates during the Space Day celebration at the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va.

“Service to this nation has always been important to me,” said Kimbrough who has been a Space operations officer at the Detachment since 2002.

“The benefits to society as a result of NASA’s discoveries are phenomenal. That’s what motivated me to want to work here. I’m very honored and happy to represent the Army in this capacity.”

The Detachment — part of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command based in Colorado Springs, Colo., element — currently includes six active-duty Army astronauts and is located at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. Three of these Army astronauts have already flown aboard Space shuttle missions.

“Those Army astronauts who have gone before me

are obviously outstanding — so I’ve got big shoes to fill, but I’m just honored to be associated with this right now,” said the 36-year-old Army pilot.

Prior to being tapped for astronaut training, Kimbrough served as a flight simulations engineer.

“What I do is fly on a shuttle training aircraft, which is a modified Grumman Gulf stream jet that is used to train the astronauts on how to land the Space shuttle. We call it a simulator, but it is a real airplane and the only vehicle we have to train the shuttle pilots how to land the shuttle.”

Kimbrough joins other classmates consisting of pilots, engineers, researchers and educators who will begin their training at the Johnson Space Center this summer setting their sights on the new Vision for Space Exploration.

“Once I finish my first year of astronaut training,” he says, “I hope to be assigned to several technical jobs so I can improve myself professionally. But then I’d be thrilled to take on any Space mission — even to the moon or Mars.”