

CELEBRATING
APOLLO

YEARS

The First Step

NASA Langley
Research Center





The First Step

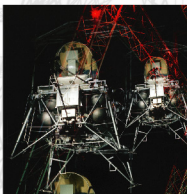
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The Lunar Landing Research Facility

Apollo Moon landings were simulated at the Lunar Landing Research Facility at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. A mock Lunar Module, powered by a small rocket motor, was suspended from a crane over a simulated lunar landscape and allowed astronauts to "fly" a full-scale Lunar Excursion Module Simulator (LEMS).



The LEMS was suspended from a 200-foot (61 m)-tall, 400-foot (120 m)-long A-frame gantry by an overhead bridge crane. The LEMS is now on display at the Virginia Air & Space Center.

Completed in 1965 at a cost of \$3.5 million, the facility was used by 24 astronauts, including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, to practice solving piloting problems they would encounter in the last 150 feet of descent to the surface of the Moon.

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