

Eugene Cernan Encyclopedia Article

Eugene Cernan

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Eugene Cernan

1934-

American astronaut who left his spacecraft for more than two hours of extravehicular activity during the *Gemini 9* mission in 1966. Cernan joined the U.S. Navy in 1956, became a test pilot, and earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering. In 1963 he was selected by NASA to serve as an astronaut. Cernan also participated in the *Apollo 10* and *Apollo 17* moon missions. He resigned from the navy and the space program in 1976 to enter private business.