

## ***The Lift-Off Is Gentle For Apollo 7 Rocket***

HOUSTON, Oct. 11 (UPI) — The Apollo 7 spacecraft lifted as gently from the launching pad today as an automobile pulling away from a stop sign.

Gone were the torturous "G-forces" of previous manned flights, which had crushed the astronauts against their padded couches with up to seven times the force of gravity. Apollo 7 and its rocket launcher, weighing 1.3 million pounds at launching, were so heavy that the ascent was slow and gradual.

In the Mercury and Gemini space flights, the thrust of the launching rockets was much greater than the weight of the spacecraft.

But for the Apollo 7, the thrust of the Saturn 1-B first stage was 1.6 million pounds, not far above the weight of the booster with its spacecraft.

The gravity loads most of the time were barely more than normal gravity on earth. At their peak they reached four times the force of earth gravity for a few seconds.

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