A mission patch is a cloth badge worn by astronauts and other personnel affiliated with a manned or unmanned space mission. A new patch is created for each mission. Mission patches were first sported by NASA astronauts in 1965. Mission patches are similar in style and purpose to shoulder patches worn by members of military units, and the idea of mission patches was first introduced to NASA by Air Force pilot (and astronaut) Gordon Cooper. Following the loss of the Apollo 1 crew in a devastating fire, embroidered patches were restricted from crew clothing. Instead, astronauts in flight wore mission patches of fire-resistant Beta cloth onto which designs were silkscreened. Patches are now created by professional graphic designers, but the design is still directed by each astronaut crew.