



Captain James Lovell, above, is greeted aboard *Wasp* after his Gemini 12 flight. While all eyes are on the astronauts, *Hornet*, at right, prepares to complete its task by recovering Yankee Clipper.



preparing it for recovery. As *Hornet* drew alongside, retrieval lines were fixed to the men in the water who attached them to the spacecraft and then removed the sea anchors and boarded their rafts to wait for completion of the recovery operation. With the space capsule safely aboard, the recovery ship set course to deliver its cargo to a port designated by NASA.

Between space shots, the recovery forces are not idle. They continue to maintain readiness through continued training and receive assignments to other duties. Following the *Apollo 11* recovery, HS-4 embarked on *Bennington* (CVS-20) as part of Carrier Anti-submarine Air Group 59 for a WestPac deployment. Other ships and aircraft returned to ASW training, patrol duties and the regular chores required of fleet units.

