

Florida's Governor Farris Bryant will become the first civilian to take a ride in the U. S. Air Force's new F-4B jet fighter on Armed Forces Day, May 18.

During the one hour flight, which will originate from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Bryant will take a tour of the entire State of Florida.

Ground preparations for the flight will take three times as long as the actual flight itself. The Governor will be fitted with a special pressurized flight suit and will be briefed on flight procedures.

"I certainly am looking forward to flying in the world's fastest operational jet fighter," Bryant said. "I think the fact that a Floridian can cover all 67 counties in Florida in one hour points up the fact that our state is in the Space Age.

"The fact that it will take me three hours to prepare for the flight, and only one hour to complete it is significant. Florida is in much the same position. We must prepare ourselves to move fast and that preparation takes time. Once we begin to fly it will be too late to stop and reevaluate what we have done in the past."