

## Ten Top Reasons Why a Navy "Seal" Was Chosen for the First Space Station Mission

10. Ground testing is for wimps. A "Seal" doesn't NEED pre-flight verification. So station assembly operations will be no problem. A "Seal" can ALWAYS make a square peg fit into a round hole, dammit! With his bare hands.
9. A "Seal" isn't worried by space flights lasting longer than ten days because that's as high as he can count (if he peels off his flippers he can usually count to twenty).
8. A "Seal" can solve the space debris problem by catching dangerous high-speed approaching objects in his teeth. Or if necessary, a "Seal" can create high-power explosives out of ordinary household materials in order to impart emergency delta-V to the space station.
7. In negotiations, one "Seal" always out-votes two Russians. Every time. And every "Seal" already knows enough Russian to interrogate prisoners (being a "Seal" means not having to say "Pozhalsta", "Spasibo", and "Prosteetye Menya").
6. Breathing under water is not too different than breathing vacuum. In fact, when ordered, a "Seal" can stop breathing entirely for up to two hours. They often do it just for fun to worry the flight surgeon.
5. Drinking recycled urine and liking it is old hat for a "Seal". And they know how to only use local materials for toilet paper.
4. Every once and awhile in space, you just have to rip somebody's lips off.
3. Under field conditions a "Seal" can quickly repair highly-complex equipment with at-hand materials such as tin foil, ear wax, finger nail clippings, and extracted tooth fillings (usually someone else's).
2. A "Seal" is not bothered by going weeks without speaking English since under normal circumstances he often goes years that way. And no real "Seal" ever missed his wife, kids, and cat enough to distract him from his mission.
1. Bad food never bothered a "Seal". He will eat ANYTHING. In case of food shortages, he can kill and eat the cosmonauts.