

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- FEBRUARY 2013

65 Years Ago – 1948

February 4: First flight of Douglas D-558-II, Number 1, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF), CA.

60 Years Ago – 1953

February 21: First powered flight of Bell X-1A.

50 Years Ago - 1963

February 9: First flight of Boeing 727, Seattle, WA.

February 14: Syncom 1 launched by Thor Delta, 12:35 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First test of a communication satellite in geosynchronous orbit.

35 Years Ago – 1978

February 9: FLTSATCOM 1 launched, 4:17 p.m., Cape Canaveral, Fla. by Atlas-Centaur. First military satellite designed for worldwide communications for military use.

30 Years Ago – 1983

February 9: Department of Defense (DoD) triple launched, 5:47 a.m. PST by Atlas F, Vandenberg AFB. US Navy Ocean Surveillance Satellite (NOSS) - a cluster of one primary satellite and three smaller sub-satellites (that trailed along at distances of several hundred kilometers) into low polar orbit.

25 Years Ago – 1988

February 11: President Reagan issued a revised space policy with increased emphasis on developing the commercial space sector following the *Challenger* accident.

20 Years Ago – 1993

February 20: Launch of Asuka (known also as ASTRO-D and ASCA) aboard a M-3SII rocket from Uchinoura Space Center, Japan at 02:20 UTC.

15 Years Ago – 1998

February 10: Celestis 2 launched by Taurus rocket, a commercial venture for disposal of funeral ashes in space. Payload disintegrated with launch vehicle on reentry.

February 25: Student Nitric Oxide Explorer (SNOE) launched by Pegasus XL, dropped from L-1011 aircraft out of Vandenberg AFB.

10 Years Ago – 2003

February 1: After a 16-day mission, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* began its reentry but communications failed at 9:00 a.m. EST when the shuttle was at an altitude of 60 km with a speed of 20,100 km/hr. *Columbia* disintegrated and the STS-107 crew were lost over western Texas. It was the 28th mission for the shuttle, *Columbia*. Following an extensive investigation, the Columbia Accident Investigation Board identified the primary reason for the accident: damage to *Columbia*'s left wing caused by a piece of insulating foam. Since this tragedy, NASA has worked hard to improve the safety of shuttle missions. The agency successfully returned to flight July 26, 2005 with STS-114.

5 Years Ago – 2008

February 7: STS 122 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched, 2:45 p.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Hans Schlegel, Stanley G. Love, Stephen N. Frick, Alan G. Poindexter, Leland D. Melvin, and Rex J. Walheim. The primary goal of the mission was to carry the European (ESA) laboratory, *Columbus*, to the ISS and install it. It docked with the ISS at 12:25 p.m., EST on February 9. Landed Feb. 20, 9:07 a.m. EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 13 days.

February 20: The U.S. Navy successfully destroyed a wayward satellite with a heat-seeking missile over the Pacific Ocean at 10:26 p.m because an uncontrolled reentry with its frozen toxic hydrazine could prove to be hazardous. The NRO spy satellite, USA-193, also known as NROL-21, was launched into orbit Dec. 14, 2006.