

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MAY 2009

60 Years Ago – 1949

May 3: U.S. Navy launched Martin Viking Rocket No. 1 to altitude of 51.4 miles and a speed of 2,250 miles per hour, from the White Sands Missile Range, NM.

May 11 - President Harry Truman signed into law the act authorizing the Atlantic Missile Range, FL.

50 Years Ago - 1959

May 1: The former Beltsville Center renamed Goddard Space Flight Center in honor of Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard, rocket pioneer who achieved first launch of a liquid-propellant rocket.

May 14: The Moon was used as a relay station for intercontinental transmission. Jodrell Bank, England to Bedford, MA.

May 28: Two monkeys, "Able" and "Baker", were successfully launched atop a Jupiter rocket to an altitude of 360 miles and 1700 miles downrange. They survived in good condition. Launched from the Eastern Space Missile Center, FL (Cape Canaveral, Fla).

45 Years Ago – 1964

May 15: The Atlantic Missile Range was renamed the Eastern Test Range, FL.

May 28: SA-6 launched by Saturn 1 rocket, 11:07 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. The first flight of an unmanned Apollo spacecraft boilerplate.

40 Years Ago – 1969

May 9: HL-10 first supersonic flight, piloted by John A. Manke, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF).

May 18: Apollo 10 launched by Saturn V, SA-505. 12:49 a.m., EDT, KSC on "the mission before THE mission." Astronauts Thomas P. Stafford; John W. Young, Jr.; and Eugene A. Cernan tested all aspects of the lunar landing mission, except the actual lunar landing.

First crew to shave in space.

First transmitted color photographs of the full Earth from a crew in space with a Westinghouse color TV camera.

First demonstration rendezvous in lunar orbit.

First burning of LM descent stage engine in lunar landing configuration.

First LM steerable antenna at lunar distances.

First LM within 15,240 meters [8 nautical miles] of lunar surface.

First in-flight test of the abort guidance system.

First in-flight use of VHF ranging.

First landing radar test in near-lunar environment.

First crew assisted navigational, visual, and photographic evaluations.

First and only Apollo launch from Launch Complex 39B.

First use of the pad's water deluge system to cool flame deflector.

May 21: Intelsat III F-4 launched by Thor Delta, 10:00 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

35 Years Ago – 1974

May 17: SMS-1 (Synchronous Meteorological Satellite-1) launched by Delta, 5:31 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First prototype geosynchronous orbit weather satellite.

May 19: Luna 22 (lunar orbiter) launched on Proton K rocket from Baikonur at 08:57 UTC

May 30: ATS-6 (Applications Technology Satellite-6) launched by Titan III C at 9:00 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago – 1979

May 1: First time the complete Space Shuttle (*Enterprise*) configuration was assembled in the VAB & transported to Launch Complex 39A.

May 4: FLTSATCOM-2 launched by Atlas Centaur, 2:56 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

20 Years Ago - 1989

May 4: STS-30 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched from KSC at 2:46 p.m., EDT. Crew: David M. Walker, Ronald J. Grabe, Norman E. Thagard, Mary L. Cleave, and Mark C. Lee. First U.S. planetary mission in 11 years and the first deep space probe on a Space Shuttle mission [Magellan]. It was deployed to Venus. First time a general purpose computer was switched on orbit. Returned to Edwards AFB, CA, May 8th. Mission duration: 4 days, 57 minutes.

May 4: Magellan spacecraft launched from Shuttle Atlantis (STS-30). Rendezvoused with Venus on Aug. 10, 1990 to begin planetary mapping mission.

May 14: Richard H. Truly takes office as eighth NASA Administrator.

15 Years Ago – 1994

May 9: MSTI 2 (Miniature Sensor Technology Integration 2), a U.S.A. defense spacecraft, was launched at 02:47 UTC from Vandenberg AFB by the last of the now discontinued Scout series.

10 Years Ago - 1999

May 18: TERRIERS (Tomographic Experiment using Radiative Recombinative Ionospheric EUV and Radio Sources) launched at 05:09:36 UTC by a Pegasus XL rocket carried by a L-1011 cargo plane flying out of Vandenberg AFB intended to monitor the solar (not ionospheric) extreme ultraviolet (EUV) spectrum.

May 27: STS-96 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched from KSC at 6:49 a.m., EDT as a logistics and resupply mission (2A.1) for the International Space Station. Crew: Kent V. Rominger, Rick D. Husband, Ellen Ochoa, Tamara E. Jernigan, Daniel T. Barry, Julie Payette (Canada), and Russian cosmonaut Valery I. Tokarev. Julie Payette was the first Canadian to participate in an ISS assembly mission – and the first Canadian to board the International Space Station. Landed at KSC on June 6, 1999, at 2:02 a.m., EDT. Mission duration: 9 days, 19 hours, 13 minutes.