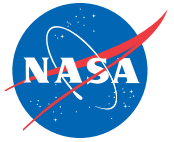




Johnson Space Center Oral History Project

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



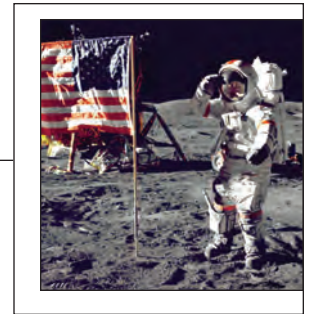
PARTICIPANTS in the Johnson Space Center Oral History Project share their unique experiences that have helped and continue to help NASA achieve its illustrious success. Capturing the thoughts and experiences of these individuals provides numerous opportunities to bring the excitement of space exploration to people of all ages. These personal recollections encourage all who listen to explore avenues of science and technology and to make the dreams of spaceflight become reality in the future. Established in 1996, the Johnson Space Center Oral History Project is an ongoing effort.

We've often been asked,
*'What did we discover
when we went to the Moon?'*

We discovered the Earth . . .

*Dick Gordon
Gemini XI, Apollo 12 Astronaut*

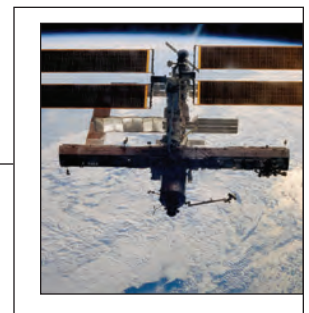
0001
1972



0002
1995



0003
2002



■ For information, call
JSC Oral History Project Advisory Committee
281.483.8414

JSC History Coordinator
281.990.0007

JSC Historian
281.486.3942

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Oral History Project

Johnson Space Center Oral History Project

The goal of the ongoing NASA Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, which was established in 1996, is to capture history from the individuals who provided the country and the world with an avenue to space and the Moon. Participants include many who served in key roles during the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle programs. Oral history interviews began in the summer of 1997, and since then more than 500 individuals have participated in the project resulting in more than 1,000 hours of recorded sessions.

Research & Oral History Session

Before conducting an oral history session with an individual, extensive research is conducted and compiled in a biographical profile. Topics and questions for the interview are prepared that focus on the historical contributions of the individual. Oral historians facilitate the interview sessions that are recorded on digital audiotape and transcribed to an electronic file for printed documentation.

Archival Process

Each participant of the JSC Oral History Project receives a copy of the tapes and printed transcript to review for accuracy. After project coordinators receive approval of the text, CDs of the oral history interview are created, then archived with the biographical profile and transcript in the NASA JSC History Collection, housed at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Neumann Library. The transcript is added to the JSC History Web site:

www.jsc.nasa.gov/history

Shuttle-Mir Program History

In 1998, the JSC Oral History Project collected oral histories from individuals involved with the International Space Station Phase 1 program. The participants shared information about the exchange of expertise and knowledge between U.S. and Russia as part of the Shuttle-Mir Program. The oral histories served as the foundation for an illustrated history publication with CD-ROM, *Shuttle-Mir: The United States and Russia Share History's Highest Stage*.

Web site: spaceflight.nasa.gov/history/shuttle-mir

Tape Rescues

The JSC Oral History Project also involves the transfer of existing interviews, press conferences and related materials from obsolete, decaying media to CD. Reel-to-reel tapes, recorded 20-40 years ago, are gradually decaying and possibly may be destroyed or degraded when played. Copies of the recovered materials are returned with the originals; duplicates are placed in the JSC History Collection at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. For more information on the archives, call 281.283.3936.

Collection of Valuable Information

The words gathered by the JSC Oral History Project provide a wealth of information about the technical, scientific and operational aspects of America's space program from the people who made it happen. Additionally, these reflections and experiences add a personal, human touch to the success of the space agency. The following are excerpts. For full text of all the transcripts, go to:

www.jsc.nasa.gov/history

Our Home

When we rolled around and came around and saw the first Earth rise, that certainly was, by far, the most impressive thing. To see this very delicate, colorful orb which to me looked like a Christmas tree ornament coming up over this very stark, ugly lunar landscape really contrasted...yet it was our home.

Bill Anders, Apollo 8 Astronaut

[From orbit] the Earth...you can see no border, and in the America not printed "America," in Russia not printed "Russia." It is just [our] planet. It's just my home.

Vladimir Titov, Russian Cosmonaut

Impact

If you remember all the stuff that was going on [in 1968], we had the Vietnam War, we had all those uprisings and almost chaos, and here we were in the middle of it, doing something that made sense.

John Llewellyn, Flight Controller

The Control Center here in Houston...was a cathedral of sorts – where we went and did what we thought was important work for our country and for humanity...we all came together and struggled, mightily at some times, with the problems that we faced...we felt that we were doing something very, very important...for mankind. It was a big step for us, because until that time flight had been airplanes. And here we were taking this really major step to go somewhere else.

Glynn Lunney, Apollo Flight Director

Family

I think the unsung heroes of the Apollo Program were the wives and children, because we didn't spend enough time with them...when you're working all the hours of day and night and travelling all over, you just don't get to spend time with your family like you should. So [the successes of the space program] came at a price.

Rod Rose, Technical Assistant, Flight Operations

Education

Knowledge is like the stars in the sky at night. It's little pin pricks. That's what we know. All the black in between is what we don't know, and it's what we don't know that will propel us into the future. That's why education and understanding physics and mathematics from first principles is so important.

George Watts, Assistant Chief, Structural Mechanics

What's in it for us?

The benefit of the space program is the unexpected. I can guarantee you that as long as we continue pushing the boundaries, pushing the frontiers, we will benefit and we'll be surprised by how we'll benefit.

**Frank Culbertson, Astronaut
ISS Phase 1 Program Manager**

