

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Donald Dionysios Arabian

ORAL HISTORY: 3 February 2000

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, Rhode Island, 1948

Attended the University of Virginia, 1950

Attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1959

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Aeronautical Engineer, Hydrodynamics and Full-Scale Research Divisions, NACA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia (1948-1960)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia

Assistant Atlas Systems Engineer, Flight Systems Division, Space Task Group (1960-1962)

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Resident, Gemini Program Office, McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri (1962-1964)

Chief, Vehicles and Missions, Systems Integration Office, Gemini Program Office (1964-1966)

Chief, Lunar Module (LM) Test Evaluation Branch, Test Division, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (1966-68)

Chairman, Panel on Sequence of Events, Apollo 204 Review Board (28 January 1967-31 March 1967)

Chief, Test Division, Apollo Spacecraft Program (1968-1973)

Manager, Program Operations Office (1973-1979)

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Group Achievement Award, Gemini Program, 1966
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, Apollo 8, 1968; Apollo 11, 1969; Apollo 13, 1971
- MSC Certificate of Commendation, Apollo 13, 1970
- NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership, Skylab, 1973
- NASA Inventions & Contributions Award, Skylab Parasol, March 1975

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Arabian, Donald D. "Take-Off Stability Characteristics of 1/13-Scale Model of Consolidated Vultee Skate-7 Sea Plane." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 27 April 1949.

Arabian, Donald D. "Resistance and Spray Characteristics of 1/13-Scale Model of Consolidated Vultee Skate-7 Sea Plane." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 9 August 1949.

Arabian, Donald D. "Smooth Water Landing and Takeoff Behavior of 1/13-Scale Model of Consolidated Vultee Skate-7 Sea Plane." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 8 September 1949.

Arabian, Donald D. "Hydrodynamic Characteristics of Swept Planning Tail Hull." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 12 September 1949.

Arabian, Donald D. "Hydrodynamic Investigation of 1/13-Scale Model of the Consolidated Vultee Skate-7 Sea Plane Equipped with Twin Hydrodynamic Ski." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 25 June 1951.

Arabian, Donald D. "Hydrodynamic Directional Behavior of Swept Planning Tail Hull." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 10 January 1952.

Arabian, Donald D. "Transmission of Advance Figures 13 through 22 on Tests of the YF-100A Model." n.p., 11 September 1952.

Arabian, Donald D. "Transmission of Advance Figures 59 through 68 Inclusive on Tests of the YF-100A Model." n.p., 24 September 1952.

Arabian, Donald D. "A Study of the Low-Speed Directional Control Problem of a Conventional Sea Plane." Masters Thesis, University of Virginia, June 1953.

Arabian, Donald D., Charles F. Reid, Jr., and Jack F. Runckel. "Aerodynamic Load Measurements and Opening Characteristics of Automatic Leading-Edge Slats on a 45° Sweptback –Wing at Transonic Speeds." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 7 April 1954.

Arabian, Donald D. "Transmission of Preliminary Data Figures 1 through 13 Compiled from Tests of the Republic F-84F Model in the Langley 16-foot Transonic Tunnel." 14 July 1954.

Arabian, Donald D. "Lateral Characteristics of the XF-104." n.p., 6 July 1955.

Arabian, Donald D. "Effect of Large Negative Dihedral of the Horizontal Tail on Longitudinal and Lateral Stability Characteristics of a Swept-Wing Configuration at Transonic Speeds." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 17 January 1956.

Arabian, Donald D. "Effect of Extended Fuselage Speed Brakes on the Aerodynamic Characteristics of a Swept-Wing Fighter Model at Transonic Speed." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 24 April 1956.

Arabian, Donald D. and James W. Schmeer. "Lateral Stability and Control Measurements of a Fighter-type Airplane with a Low-aspect-ratio Unswept Wing and a Tee-tail." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 12 June 1956.

Arabian, Donald D. "Investigation At Transonic Speeds of Loading Over a 30 Degree Sweptback Wing of Aspect Ratio 3, Taper Ratio 0.2, and NACA 65A004 Airfoil Section Mounted on a Body." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 26 September 1957.

Arabian, Donald D. "Gemini Design Test Philosophy." Houston, TX: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1 January 1964.

Arabian, D. D., O. E. Maynard, and W. B. Mitchell. "Gemini Results as Related to the Apollo Program." In Gemini Summary Conference 1967, 329-336. Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1967.

Arabian, Donald D. "Mission Evaluation and Flight Anomalies." In Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1969: Chronology on Science, Technology, and Policy by NASA Historical Division. Washington, DC: NASA, 1970.

Arabian, Donald D. "Aspects of the Apollo 12 Lightning Incident." n.p., December 1970.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

[American Astronautical Society Homepage], [Online]. (4 June 1999—Last Updated), Available <http://www.astronautical.org/membership/fellowspast.html> [8 June 1999—Accessed].

American Astronautical Society Nomination for Rank of Fellow Form, Donald D. Arabian Key Personnel File (Inactive), Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Apollo Spacecraft Program Office Records, Donald D. Arabian Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Ivan D. Ertel, Roland W. Newkirk, and Courtney G. Brooks, The Apollo Spacecraft: A Chronology, Vol. IV, *January 21, 1966-July 13, 1974*, The NASA Historical Series (Washington, DC: NASA, 1978), 73.

Charles Murray and Catherine Bly Cox, Apollo: The Race to the Moon (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989), 360.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (date unknown), Donald D. Arabian Key Personnel File, Public Affairs Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Rank Order Sheet (11 January 1974), Donald D. Arabian Key Personnel File (Inactive), Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

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