

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Vance De Voe Brand

ORAL HISTORY: 25 July 2000
12 April 2002

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Business, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado, 1953

B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado, 1960

M.S. in Business Administration, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, 1964

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Marine Corps (1953-1964)

- Commissioned Officer and Naval Aviator (1953-1957)
- Officer, Marine Corps Reserve & Air National Guard (1957-1964)
- U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, 1963

Lockeed Aircraft Corporation (1960-1966)

- Flight Test Engineer, Navy P3A Orion aircraft, Palmdale, California
- Experimental Test Pilot, Canadian & German F-104 Programs, Palmdale, California
- Leader Flight Test Advisory Group, West German F-104G Flight Test Center, Istres, France

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1966-1992)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1966-1992)

NASA Headquarters, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio (1992-1994)

- Director of Plans, National Aerospace Plane (NASP) Program (1992-1994)

Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards AFB, Edwards, California (1994-Present)

- Assistant Chief, Flight Operations Division (1994-1996)
- Acting Chief Engineer, Flight Operations Division (1996-1998)
- Acting Chief, Shuttle Flight Support Office (1996-Date Unknown)
- Deputy Director, Aerospace Projects (1998-Present)

MISSIONS:

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (Apollo 18/AS-210)

- Crew: Commander Thomas P. Stafford, Docking Module Pilot Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, Command Module Pilot Vance D. Brand
- Launch: 15 July 1975 at 03:50:01 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 217 hours, 28 minutes, 23 seconds
- Landed: 24 July 1975 at 05:18:24 P.M. EST, Pacific Ocean

- Mission Highlights: The primary objective was to perform rendezvous, docking and undocking with spacecraft from two different countries (USA/USSR) to simulate spacecraft recovery. Of secondary importance was the demonstration of crew transfer and interaction of diverse crews and control-centers.

STS-5 (*Columbia*)

- Crew: Commander Vance D. Brand, Pilot Robert F. Overmyer, Mission Specialist 1 Joseph P. Allen, Mission Specialist 2 William B. Lenoir
- Launched: 11 November 1982 at 07:19:00 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center (KSC), FL
- Duration: 5 days, 2 hours, 14 minutes, 26 seconds
- Landed: 16 November 1982 at 06:33:26 A.M. PST, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: The primary significance of STS-5 resulted from its being the first “operational” mission of the space shuttle program. Two commercial communication satellites were deployed: the SBS-3 and the Anik C-3.

STS 41-B (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Vance D. Brand, Pilot Robert L. Gibson, Mission Specialist Bruce McCandless II, Mission Specialist Ronald E. McNair, Mission Specialist Robert L. Stewart
- Launched: 3 February 1984 at 08:00:00 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 7 days, 23 hours, 15 minutes, 55 seconds
- Landed: 11 February 1984 at 07:15:55 A.M. EST, Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Mission Highlights: STS-41B featured the first untethered spacewalks and tested the Manned Maneuvering Unit backpacks. This mission also marked the first shuttle landing at the KSC landing facility. The only other major objective, the launching of two satellites, was not completed successfully as the PAM booster did not function properly and the satellites could not achieve their proper orbit.

STS-35 (*Columbia*)

- Crew: Commander Vance D. Brand, Pilot Guy S. Gardner, Mission Specialist 1 Jeffrey A. Hoffman, Mission Specialist 2 John M. Lounge, Mission Specialist 3 Robert A. Parker, Payload Specialist 1 Samuel T. Durrance, Payload Specialist 2 Ronald A. Parise
- Launched: 2 December 1990 at 01:49:01 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 8 days, 23 hours, 5 minutes, 8 seconds
- Landed: 11 December 1990 at 12:54:00 A.M. EST, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: STS-35 marked the first Spacelab mission since the *Challenger* STS-51L accident. The first shuttle flight dedicated solely to astrophysics, the mission carried a group of powerful telescopes known as Astro-1. The mission gathered information on hot stars, quasars, supernovas and other celestial bodies.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- JSC Certificate of Commendation, 1970
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1974

- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1975
- Wright Brothers International Manned Space Flight Award, 1975
- Zeta Beta Tau's Richard Gottheil Medal, 1975
- AAS Flight Achievement Award for 1976, 1977
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal, 1976
- Sigma Nu Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award, 1976
- University of Colorado Alumnus of the Century (1 of 12), 1976
- Veterans of Foreign Wars National Space Award, 1976 & 1984
- AIAA Special Presidential Citation, 1977
- AIAA Hayley Astronautics Award, 1978
- JSC Special Achievement Award, 1978
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1978
- FAI De La Vault Medal, 1983
- Harmon Trophy, 1983
- NASA Space Flight Medal, 1983 & 1984
- Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at University of Colorado, 1984
- De Molay Hall of Fame, 1989

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (undated), Vance D. Brand Key Personnel (Inactive) File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (April 1979), Vance D. Brand Key Personnel (Inactive) File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (February 1983), Vance D. Brand Key Personnel (Inactive) File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Nomination for the Society of Experimental Test Pilots' Iven C. Kincheloe Award (30 July 1976), Vance D. Brand Key Personnel (Inactive) File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Vance Brand Mission Information,” [Kennedy Space Center Homepage], [Online]. Available: <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/persons/astronauts/a-to-d/BrandVD.txt> [3 August 1999—Accessed].

“Vance Brand Biographical Data Sheet,” [Johnson Space Center Homepage], [Online]. (September 1998—Last Updated), Available: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/brand.html> [13 August 1999—Accessed].

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