

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Daniel C. Brandenstein

**ORAL HISTORY:** 19 January 1999

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

BS in Mathematics and Physics, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, Wisconsin, 1965

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE:** Captain, United States Navy (Retired October 1992)

**PRE-NASA CAREER:**

Flight Trainee, Naval Air Training Command, (September 1965)

Naval Aviator, Naval Air Station, Beeville, Texas (May 1967)

A-6 Fleet Replacement Training, VA-128

A-6 Intruder Pilot, VA-196 serving two combat deployments onboard the *USS Constellation* and the *USS Ranger* (1968-1970)

A-6 Weapons Systems and Tactics operational tester, VX-5

Graduate, Naval Air Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland

Test Pilot-Electronic Warfare Systems, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland

A-6 Intruder Pilot, VA-145 Western Pacific and Indian Ocean deployment aboard *USS Ranger* (March 1975-September 1977)

A-6 Flight Instructor, VA-128

**NASA CAREER:**

Astronaut, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas (1978-1992)

Ascent Spacecraft Communicator (CAPCOM) and Astronaut Support Crew, STS-1

Ascent CAPCOM and Astronaut Support Crew, STS-2

Pilot, STS-8 (August 30-September 1983)

Commander, STS-51G (June 17-24 1985)

Commander, STS-32 (January 9-20 1990)

Commander, STS-49 (May 7-16 1992)

Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations (1985- date unknown)

Chief, Astronaut Office (April 1987-September 1992)

Retired from NASA October 1992

**POST-NASA CAREER:**

Director, Program Development, Loral Space Information Systems (1995-1996)

Director, Quality Assurance, Loral Space Information Systems (1994-1995)

Data management systems design team leader, Space Station redesign effort, IBM Federal Systems Company (1993-1994)

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:**

Executive Vice President/K-1 Program Manager, Kistler Aerospace Corporation (March 1996-Present)

**MISSIONS:**

*STS-8 (Challenger)*

- Crew: Commander Richard H. Truly, Pilot Daniel C. Brandenstein, Mission Specialist Dale A. Gardner, Mission Specialist Guion S. Bluford, Mission Specialist William E. Thornton
- Launched: 30 August 1983 2:32:00 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 1 hour, 8 minutes, 43 seconds
- Landed: 5 September 1983 at 12:40:43 A.M. PDT, Runway 22, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: First night launch and landing of shuttle program. Bluford became first African-American to fly in space. Crew launched INSAT-1B Indian satellite.

*STS 51-G (Discovery)*

- Crew: Commander Daniel C. Brandenstein, Pilot John O. Creighton, Mission Specialist 1 Shannon W. Lucid, Mission Specialist 2 John M. Fabian, Mission Specialist 3 Steven R. Nagel, Payload Specialist 1 Patrick Baudry, Payload Specialist 2 Sultan Salman Al-Saud
- Launched: 17 June 1985 at 7:33:00 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 7 days, 1 hour, 38 minutes, 52 seconds
- Landed: 24 June 1985 at 6:11:52 A.M. PDT, Runway 23, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: Deployed three communications satellites: MORE LOS-A for Mexico, ARABSAT-A for Arab Satellite Communications Organization, and TELSTAR-3D for AT&T. Tested the deployable/retrievable Shuttle Pointed Autonomous Research Tool for Astronomy (SPARTAN-1), conducted the High Precision Tracking Experiment (HPTE) for the Strategic Defense Initiative, tested the Automated Directional Solidification Furnace (ADSF) for materials processing, and conducted two French biomedical experiments.

*STS-32 (Columbia)*

- Crew: Commander Daniel C. Brandenstein, Pilot James D. Wetherbee, Mission Specialist 1 Bonnie J. Dunbar, Mission Specialist 2 G. David Low, Mission Specialist 3 Marsha S. Ivins
- Launched: 9 January 1990 at 7:35:00 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 10 days, 21 hours, 0 minutes, 36 seconds
- Landed: 20 January 1990 at 1:35:37 A.M. PST, Runway 22, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: Deployed SYCOM IV-F5 defense communications satellite. Retrieved NASA's Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF).

*STS-49 (Endeavour)*

- Crew: Commander Daniel C. Brandenstein, Pilot Kevin P. Chilton, Mission Specialist 1 Pierre J. Thout, Mission Specialist 2 Kathryn C. Thornton, Mission Specialist 3 Ellison S. Sizemore

Specialist 3 Richard J. Hieb, Mission Specialist 4 Thomas D. Akers, Mission Specialist 5 Bruce E. Melnick

- Launched: 7 May 1992 at 7:40 P.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 8 days, 21 hours, 17 minutes, 38 seconds
- Landed: 16 May 1992 at 6:57:38 P.M. EDT, Runway 22, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: First flight of orbiter *Endeavour*. First use of landing drag parachute. Captured and repaired INTELSAT VI (F-3) satellite during first three person EVA. EVA to conduct Assembly of Station by EVA Methods (ASEM) experiment.

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- Associate Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Member, Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP)
- Member, Association of Space Explorers
- Member, United States Naval Institute
- Member, Association of Naval Aviation

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- 2 Defense Superior Service Medals
- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- 17 Air Medals
- 2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- 2 NASA Distinguished Service Medals
- 2 NASA Outstanding Leadership Medals
- 4 NASA Space Flight Medals
- National Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- Legion of Honor (France)
- Medal of King Abdul Aziz (Saudi Arabia)
- Republic of Vietnam Air Gallantry Cross with Silver Star
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Distinguished Alumnus, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- Honorary Doctor of Engineering, Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Honorary Doctor of Science, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- SETP Iven C. Kinchloe Award
- AIAA Haley Space Flight Award
- Federation Aeronautique International Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal

- American Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Award

**BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

NASA Biographical Data Sheet for Daniel C. Brandenstein (1994). Public Affairs Office. Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Astronaut Fact Book. NASA Information Summaries. March 31, 1997.

Kistler Aerospace Corporation Brochure. Spring 1998, 12.

Kistler Executive and Technical Team. [Kistler Aerospace Corporation Homepage], [Online]. (29 August 1998 - Last Updated). Available: <http://www.newspace.com/Industry/Kistler/std/techTeam.html> [9 December 1998 - Accessed].

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