

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Michael Collins

**ORAL HISTORY:** 8 October 1997

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

BS in Military Science, US Military Academy, West Point, 1952  
Advanced Management Program, Harvard Business School, 1974

**PRE-NASA CAREER:**

United States Air Force

Flight Mechanics Basics, Columbus, Mississippi (1952 - six months)  
Formation Flying and Instrument Training, San Marcos, Texas (1952-1953)  
Jet Training, Waco, Texas (1953)  
21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing (1953-1957)  
Advanced Day Fighter Training, Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Sabrejet Pilot  
21<sup>st</sup> transferred to France  
Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois (1957-1960)  
Aircraft Maintenance Course (six months)  
Instructor  
Commander, Mobile Training Detachment  
F-105 Instructor, Field Training Detachment (FTD), Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Student, USAF Experimental Flight Test Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California (August 1960-32 week course)  
Test Operations Division, Fighter Operations, Edwards Air Force Base, California  
Staff Student/F-104 Pilot, USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California, October 1962  
Retired as Major General (1978)

**NASA CAREER:**

Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas  
Astronaut (1963-1969)

**POST-NASA CAREER:**

Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Washington, DC (1970-1971)  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC  
Director, National Air and Space Museum (1971-1978)  
Under Secretary, Smithsonian Institution (1978-1980)

Vice President, Field Operations, Vought Corporation, Arlington, Virginia (1980- date unknown)  
President, Michael Collins Associates, Washington, DC  
Author, North Carolina

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- Member, Society of Experimental Test Pilots

**MISSIONS:**

Gemini X (GT-10)

- Crew: Commander John W. Young, Pilot Michael Collins
- Launched: 18 July 1966, 5:20:26.648 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center
- Duration: 2 days, 22 hours, 46 min, 39 seconds
- Landed: 21 July 1966, 4:07 P.M. EST in the Atlantic Ocean
- Mission Highlights: All primary objectives involving rendezvous, docking, and EVA, and most secondary objectives were met. The practice docking secondary objective and some experiments were canceled due to insufficient fuel reserves.

Apollo 11 (AS-506)

- Crew: Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.
- Launched: 16 July 1969 at 9:32 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center
- Duration: 8 days, 3 hours, 18 minutes
- Landed: 24 July 1969 at 12:50 P.M. EDT in the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: First manned lunar landing

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- NASA Distinguished Service Medal
- Air Force Command Pilot Astronaut Wings
- Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross
- Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1969

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS:**

Collins, Michael. Flying to the Moon and Other Strange Places. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Collins, Michael. Liftoff: The Story of America's Adventure in Space. Illustrated by James Dean. New York: Grove Press, 1988.

Collins, Michael. Carrying the Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys. Revised Edition. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1989.

Collins, Michael. Mission to Mars. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990.

Collins, Michael. Flying to the Moon: An Astronaut's Story. Sunburst, April 1994.

**BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The First 25 Years (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1987), s.v. "Collins, Michael."

Andrew Chaikin, A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts (New York: Penguin Books, 1994), 587.

"Michael Collins," NASA Biographical Data Sheet, December 1969, Biographical Files, Johnson Space Center History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

Eric M. Jones, ed. "Apollo 11 Crew Information," [Homepage of the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal]. [Online]. (12 December 1997-Last Updated). Available: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/alsj/a11/a11.crew.html> [17 March 1997-Accessed].

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