

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** John "J.O." Oliver Creighton

**ORAL HISTORY:** 3 May 2004

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

B.S., United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, 1966

M.S. in Administration of Science and Technology, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1978

**PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:**

United States Navy (1966-1992)

- After graduating from Annapolis, underwent pilot's training and was designated a Naval Aviator (1966-1967)
- Naval Aviator, Fighter Squadron 154 (VF-154) (1968-1970)
- Test Pilot Training, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, MD (1970-1971)
- Test Pilot, Service Test Division, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Patuxent River (1971-1973)
- Naval Aviator, Fighter Squadron 2 (VF-2) (1973-1977)
- Operations Officer and F-14 Program Manager, Strike Directorate, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River (1977-1978)
- Detailed to NASA (1978-1992)
- Retired as Captain (1992)

**NASA EXPERIENCE:**

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston (1978-1992)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1978-1992)
- Deputy Manager, Operations Integration, Shuttle Program Office (dates unknown)
- Astronaut Office Representative, Shuttle Program Manager Office (1985-1987)
- Head of the Mission Support Branch, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1989-1990)
- Head of the Operations Development Branch, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1990-1991)

**POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:**

Boeing Company, Commercial Airplane Group, Seattle, WA (1992-present)

- Test Pilot and Flight Instructor, Customer Support Area (1992-present)

## MISSIONS:

### 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 hours, 38 minutes, 52 seconds
- Landed: 24 June 1985 at 6:11:52 A.M. PDT, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: Primary payload consisted of three communications satellites: the MORELOS-A for Mexico, the ARABSAT-A for the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, and TELSTAR-3D for AT&T. All were deployed using Payload Assist Module-D (PAM-D) motors. Secondary Payloads included: the deployable/retrievable Shuttle Pointed Autonomous Research Tool for Astronomy (SPARTAN-1), six "Get Away Special" canisters, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) sponsored High Precision Tracking Experiment (HPTE), the Automated Directional Solidification Furnace (ADSF), and two French biomedical experiments. Al-Saud was the first Saudi Arabian citizen to fly aboard the Shuttle.

### STS-36 (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander John O. Creighton, Pilot John H. Casper, Mission Specialist 1 R. Michael Mullane, Mission Specialist 2 David C. Hilmers, Mission Specialist 3 Pierre J. Thuot
- Launched: 28 February 1990 at 2:50:22 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 4 days, 10 hours, 18 minutes, 22 seconds
- Landed: 4 March 1990 at 10:08:44 A.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: The sixth Dedicated Department of Defense mission, launch was delayed due to inclement weather and because Creighton came down with a cold. Primary payload: a Central Intelligence Agency AFP-731 imaging reconnaissance satellite named Crystal. Deployed using the Stabilized Payload Deployment System (SPDS), the satellite was thought to be a K-11 Keyhole photographic unit modified with added signals intelligence equipment and deemed the K-12.

### STS-48 (*Discovery*)

- Crew: Commander John O. Creighton, Pilot Kenneth S. Reightler, Jr., Mission Specialist 1 James F. Buchli, Mission Specialist 2 Charles D. Gemar, Mission Specialist 3 Mark N. Brown
- Launched: 12 September 1991 at 7:11:04 P.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 5 days, 8 hours, 27 minutes, 38 seconds
- Landed: 18 September 1991 at 12:38:42 A.M. PDT, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: Primary payload consisted of the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS), a 14,500-pound observatory contained ten sensing and measuring devices which to studied the Earth's troposphere, including the ozone layer. Secondary payloads included: the Ascent Particle Monitor (APM), Middeck 0-Gravity Dynamics Experiment (MODE), Shuttle Activation Monitor (SAM), Cosmic

Ray Effects and Activation Monitor (CREAM), Physiological and Anatomical Rodent Experiment (PARE), Protein Crystal Growth II-2 (PCG II-2) experiments, Investigations into Polymer Membrane Processing (IPMP), and the Air Force Maui Optical Site (AMOS) experiment.

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- Defense Superior Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Air Medal (10 times)
- Legion of Merit
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation
- Navy Commendation Medal
- NASA Space Flight Medal (1985, 1990, 1991)
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal (1988)
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal (1991)
- NASA Distinguished Service & Leadership Medal
- Chavalier, French Legion of Honor
- Saudi Arabia King Fahd Medal

**REFERENCES:**

Douglas B. Hawthorne, Men and Women of Space (San Diego: Univelt, Incorporated, 1992), 164-165.

“Honor awards recognize JSC achievers,” Space News Roundup (NASA Johnson Space Center), 15 March 1991, 1.

John O. Creighton NASA Biographical Data Sheet (March 1990), John O. Creighton Key Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

John O. Creighton NASA Biographical Data Sheet (December 1994), Johnson Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/creighton-jo.html> (Last Updated n.d; Accessed 3 May 2002).

Johnson Space Center News Release, “Astronaut Creighton to Retire and Leave NASA,” JSC 92-035, 25 June 1992, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Kenneth S. Pedersen, Director of International Affairs, to Distribution, John O. Creighton Key Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Michael Cassutt, Who’s Who in Space: International Space Station Edition (New York: Macmillan Library Reference USA, 1999), 98-99.

“Myers, Truly to present NASA Honor Awards,” Space News Roundup (Johnson Space Center), 8 April 1988, 1.

“Shuttle Mission Archive, STS 51-G (18),” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/51-g/mission-51-g.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 24 June 2002).

“Shuttle Mission Archive, STS-36 (34),” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-36/mission-sts-36.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 11 July 2002).

“Shuttle Mission Archive, STS-48 (43),” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-48/mission-sts-48.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 11 June 2002).

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