

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Robert Laurel Crippen

**ORAL HISTORY:** 26 May 2006

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1960

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

**PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:**

United States Navy (1960-1987)

Pilot Training (1960-1962)

Attack Pilot, Fleet Squadron VA-72, *USS Independence* (1962-1964)

USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California

Student (1964-1965)

Instructor (1965-1966)

Aerospace Research Pilot, Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL), Vandenberg Air Force Base, California (1966-1969)

**NASA INVOLVEMENT:**

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/ Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Astronaut (1969-1984)

Deputy Director, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1984-1986)

Deputy Director, National STS Operations, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida (1987-1989)

Director, Space Shuttle Program, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC (1990-1992)

Director, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida (1992-1995)

**POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:**

Vice-President, Automation Systems/ Simulation and Training Systems, Lockheed Martin Information Systems, Orlando, Florida (1995-1996)

President, Thiokol Aerospace Group/ Thiokol Corporation/ Cordant Technologies Inc. Thiokol Propulsion, Brigham City, Utah (1996-Present)

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- Fellow, Society of Experimental Test Pilots
- Honorary Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- National Defense Medal (1962)

- Navy Expeditionary Medal (1962)
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1962)
- Meritorious Service Medal (1969)
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal (1972)
- JSC Group Achievement Award (1972)
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal (1981)
- Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1981)
- American Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Award (1981)
- National Geographic Society's Gardiner Greene Hubbard Medal (1981)
- Aviation Hall of Fame Al J. Engel Award (1981)
- NASA Space Flight Medal, STS-1 (1981)
- Federal Aviation Administration's Award for Distinguished Service (1982)
- Goddard Memorial Trophy (1982)
- NASA Space Flight Medal, STS-7 (1983)
- Distinguished Flying Cross (1983)
- Meritorious Service Medal (1983)
- NASA Space Flight Medal, 41-C (1984)
- NASA Space Flight Medal, 41-G (1984)
- Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1984)
- National Space Trophy, Rotary National Award for Special Achievement Foundation (1995)
- Congressional Space Medal of Honor (2006)

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS:**

Bobko, Karol J., Robert L. Crippen, and W. E. Thornton. "Crew Report." (CASI 19740003767). Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1973.

Crippen, Robert L., and Richard H. Truly. "Flight crew observations of spacecraft systems." In American Astronautical Society, Annual Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles, California, August 20-22, 1974. Los Angeles, California: American Astronautical Society, August 1974.

Young, John W., and Robert L. Crippen. "Spaceship Columbia's first flight." Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Technical Review 16 no. 2 (1981): 264-277.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Columbia's astronauts' own story - Our phenomenal first flight." National Geographic October 1981, 478-503.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The first U.S. Space Shuttle orbital test flight/ STS-1." In International Aerospace Review: Proceedings of the First International Aerospace Symposium, Le Bourget, Seine-Saint-Denis, France, June 2-3, 1981, 9-35. New York: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1982.

Crippen, Robert L., and F. H. Hauck. "Orbiter operations in close proximity to free-flying satellites of formation flying in space." In 1983 report to the aerospace profession: Proceedings of the Twenty-seventh Symposium, Beverly Hills, California, September 28-October 1, 1983, 314-335. Lancaster, California: Society of Experimental Test Pilots, 1983.

**SOURCES:**

Jim Dumoulin, ed., "Index of persons/astronauts," Kennedy Space Center Science, Technology, and Engineering Homepage, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/persons/astronauts/a-to-d/CrippenRL.txt> (Last Updated 19 June 2001; Accessed 14 August 2001.)

Jerry Wright, ed., "Astronaut Bio: Robert L. Crippen," Astronaut Biographies Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/crippen-rl.html> (Last Updated 5 April 2001; Accessed 14 August 2001).

NASA Headquarters Telephone Directory (1991), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Johnson Space Center Telephone Directory (1985), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Kennedy Space Center Telephone Directories (1987-1988, 1992, 1994), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

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