

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Charles Joseph Donlan

ORAL HISTORY: 27 April 1998

EDUCATION:

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1938

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Langley Aeronautical Research Center, Virginia
Stability Analysis Group (date unknown-1941)
Assistant Head of the Stability Tunnel (1941-1944)
Project Engineer, High-Speed 7 by 10-Foot Wind Tunnel (1944-1945)
Head of the High-Speed 7 by 10-Foot Tunnel Section/Assistant Head of the 7 by 10-Foot Tunnels Branch (1945-1951)
Technical Assistant to the Associate Director (1955-1958)

NASA CAREER:

Space Task Group, Langley Research Center, Virginia
Assistant Manager Space Task Group (1958)
Associate Director (Research and Development) of Project Mercury (1959-1961)
Langley Research Center, Virginia
Associate Director (1961-1967)
Deputy Director (1967-1968)
NASA Headquarters, Washington DC
Deputy Associate Administrator (Technical), Manned Spaceflight Office (1968-1976)
Acting Director Advanced Missions Program Office (1969-1970)
Acting Director Space Shuttle Program Office (1970-1973)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Consultant to Government and Industry (1976-date unknown)

ADVISORY POSITIONS/COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT:

Member, Peninsula Airport Commission for the City of Hampton, VA (1961-1968)
Member, Subcommittee on Stability and Control, NACA (1955-1958)
Member Research Airplane Panel (1952-1958)
Special Duty Munitions Weapons Defense Program

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

Tau Beta Pi (Honorary Engineering Fraternity)
Associate Fellow, Institute of the Aerospace Sciences
Member, Engineers' Club of the Virginia Peninsula
Fellow, American Astronomical Society
Associate Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 1963
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1969
- Distinguished Service Medal, 1972
- Honorary Doctorate, Aeronautical Engineering, Ohio Northern University, 1972
- Robert Lovelace II Award, 1976

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Donlan, Charles J. The Collected Works of Charles J. Donlan. Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, August 1977.

Donlan, Charles J., Boyd C. Myers, and Axel T. Mattson. "A Comparison of the Aerodynamic Characteristics at Transonic Speeds of Four Wing-Fuselage Combinations as Determined from Different Test Techniques." L50H02. NACA Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1950.

Donlan, Charles J. and Jack C. Heberlig. "Project Mercury: the Program and Its Objectives." Symposium on Psychophysiological Aspects of Space Flight, San Antonio, TX, 26-27 May 1960.

Donlan, Charles J. "On the History of U.S. Manned Space Flight." American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 13th Annual Meeting and Technical Display, Washington, DC, 10-14 January 1977.

Donlan, Charles J. "The Legacy of the X-15." Proceedings of the X-15 First Flight 30th Anniversary Celebration. Dryden Flight Research Facility, Edwards, CA, 1 January 1991.

Gilruth, Robert R., J. V. Becker, C. J. Donlan, and E. C. Draley. "Review of Langley Research Effort" to Langley Aeronautical Laboratory Director. A200-1A, LCF. Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, January 31, 1958.

Gilruth, Robert R., Robert O. Piland, Maxime A. Faget, Stanley C. White, Robert C. Chilton, and Charles J. Donlan. "Guidelines for Advanced Manned Space Vehicle Program." National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Langley Field, VA, June 1960.

Seidman, Oscar, and Charles J. Donlan. "Spin Tests of a 1/20-Scale Model of the XF4U-1 Airplane with Modified Tail Arrangement and Antispin Device Installed." NACA Conference Memo, Report 1. 1 September 1939.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Key Personnel Files, Johnson Space Center Awards Office.

NASA Langley Research Center, Langley Station, Hampton, Virginia, Charles J. Donlan, Associate Director Biographical Document.

Who's Who in America, 40th ed., Vol. 1, s.v. "Donlan, Charles Joseph."

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