

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Richard "Dick" Francis Gordon, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: 17 October 1997
16 June 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Chemistry, University of Washington, 1951

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Navy

- All-Weather Fighter Pilot, Jacksonville, FL (1953-1957)
- F4H Phantom II Project Pilot, Navy Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland (1957-1960)
- Flight Instructor, Miramar, California (1960-1963)
- Detailed to NASA (1963)
- Retired as Captain

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas (1963-1972)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1963-1972)
- Head, Apollo Branch, Astronaut Office (dates unknown)
- Chief of Advance Programs, Astronaut Office (1971-1972)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

New Orleans Saints Football Club (1972-1977)

- Executive Vice President

Astro Systems and Engineering, Los Angeles, California (1978-date unknown)

- President

Scott Science and Technology, Inc. (dates unknown)

- Vice President of Operations

Space Age America, Inc. (dates unknown)

- President

MISSIONS:

Gemini XI (GT-11)

- Crew: Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Jr. and Pilot Richard F. Gordon
- Launched: 12 September 1966 at 9:42:27 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 2 days, 23 hours, 17 minutes, 8 seconds
- Landed: 15 September 1966 at 8:59:35 A.M. EST

- Mission Highlights: Primary objective was to rendezvous and dock with Gemini Agena target vehicle in first orbital revolution. Secondary objectives included practice dockings, perform two EVAs, conduct 11 experiments, maneuver while docked (high apogee excursion), and conduct tethered vehicle test.

Apollo 12 (AS-507)

- Crew: Commander Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Pilot Richard F. Gordon, Lunar Module Pilot Alan L. Bean
- Launched: 14 November 1969 11:22 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 10 days, 4 hours, 36 minutes, 23 seconds
- Landed: 24 November 1969 at 3:58 P.M. EST the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: Second manned lunar landing. Demonstrated the capability to achieve pinpoint landings on the lunar surface. Retrieved parts of the unmanned *Surveyor III*, which had landed on the Moon in April 1967. Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package (ALSEP) deployed.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Bendix Trophy (for setting LA to New York Speed Record), May 1961

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 19 DECEMBER 1997