

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Gary W. Johnson

ORAL HISTORY: 3 May and 4 May 2010

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS, Electrical Engineering, Oklahoma State University, 1964

MBA, University of Houston – Clear Lake, 1979

NASA EXPERIENCE:

1964-1969 – Project Engineer, Power Distribution and Sequencing Section for subsystem support, Apollo sequencer system. Responsible for providing technical direction in the design, development, fabrication, and testing of the electrical sequencing system for Apollo.

1969-1974 – Subsystem Manager, Sequential Subsystem, Apollo Command and Service Module (CSM) and Lunar Module vehicles and Skylab CSM. The sequential subsystem is the system which controls the functions required for spacecraft aborts and Earth recovery parachute operations.

1971-1974 – Group Leader, Power Controls and Lightning Group, Power Distribution and Control Branch. NASA Test subject for the testing of space suits and related hardware.

1974-1975 – Subsystem Manager, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) electrical and sequential subsystems. Member of the ASTP Working Group Number 4.

July 1974-January 1975 – Engineering Office, Space Shuttle Orbiter Project. Responsible for the integration and implementation of Orbiter level technical requirements for Data Processing, Displays and Controls, Electrical, and Instrumentation Systems.

1975-1978 – Head, Equipment and Installation Section, Power Distribution and Control Branch, Control Systems Development Division, Engineering and Development Directorate. Project Manager for the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory electrical power distribution and control interfaces.

March 1978-September 1978 – Special Assistant to the Director, Office of the Director. Provided direct support to the Center Director's Technical Assistant in coordinating among major Center organizations tasks and activities which were Centerwide in scope.

October 1978-June 1981 – Deputy Chief, Electrical, Mechanical, and Environmental Systems Branch, Flight Control Division. Responsible for aiding the Branch Chief in assuring that Branch personnel developed acceptable knowledge for proficiency in Mission Control techniques; and for development and review of procedures for normal and contingency operations, and the analysis of spacecraft systems for identification of possible inflight malfunctions. Served as Orbit Flight Control Team Electrical, General Instrumentation, and Lighting (EGIL) flight controller during STS-1.

June 1981-July 1983 – Chief, Mechanical and Payload Systems Branch, Systems Division. Responsible for the development of flight controllers in the Space Shuttle auxiliary power unit, hydraulics, mechanical, remote manipulator system, and deployable upper stage systems.

July 1983-October 1985 – Chief, Guidance and Propulsion Systems Branch, Systems Division. Responsible for the development of flight controllers in the Space Shuttle Reaction Control System, Orbital Maneuvering System, consumables management, guidance and control, hardware and software, and on-orbit propellant transfer systems.

October 1985-May 1997 – Deputy Director, Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Office. Served as ISS Phase 1 Shuttle-Mir Program Joint Safety Assurance Working Group NASA Co-Chairman, from 1992 to 1998.

May 1997-July 2003 – Deputy Director, Russian Projects Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance. Served as NASA Co-Chairman of the ISS Program Joint American Russian Safety Working Group.

July 2003- January 2006 – Associate Director for Technical, Safety and Mission Assurance (S&MA) Directorate. Developed and managed the S&MA Qualification Training Program and the Space Shuttle Close Call Awareness Program. Member, JSC Quality Systems Panel and NASA Quality leadership Forum.

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

April 2006 to February 2010 – ARES Corporation, Senior Risk Management Specialist.

March 2007 – SAIC IPAO Contract consultant on the Orion CEV Standing Review Board for Safety

June 2007 – SAIC S&MA Support Services Contract technical consultant for Apollo and Space Shuttle lessons learned training and Space Shuttle and ISS S&MA assessments.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

Johnson, G. W., Apollo Experience Report - Command and Service Module Sequential Events Control Subsystem, NASA TND-7951, April 1975.

Johnson, G. W., And Sotnikov, Boris; NASA Phase 1 Program Joint Report, Section 6 - Safety Assurance Process, January 1999.