

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Christopher Columbus Kraft, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: 23 May 2008

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1944

PRE-NASA CAREER:

NACA Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Virginia
Aeronautical Research Engineer (1945-1958)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Space Task Group, Langley Research Center, Virginia
Aeronautical Research Engineer (1958-1959)
Supervisory Aeronautical Research Engineer (1959-1961)
Assistant Chief (Plans & Arrangements), Flight Operations Division (1961-1962)
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas
Chief, Flight Operations Division (1962-1963)
Director, Flight Operations (1963-1969)
Deputy Director, Manned Spacecraft Center (1969-1972)
Director, Johnson Space Center (1972-1982)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Aerospace Consultant, Houston, Texas (1982-date unknown)

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Honorary Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Corresponding Member, International Academy of Astronautics of the International Astronautical Federation
- Honorary Member, Aerospace Medical Association

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Named one of 100 Outstanding Young Leaders in the United States by the editors of *Life* Magazine, 1962
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 1963
- "Virginian of the Year" Award, Virginia Press Association, 1965
- Distinguished Alumnus Award, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, 1965

- Spirit of St. Louis Medal, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1966
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering, Indiana Institute of Technology, 1966
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering, St. Louis University, 1967
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal for the first flight to orbit the moon, 1969
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal for the first lunar landing, 1969
- Space Flight Award, American Astronautical Society, 1970
- Theodore Roosevelt Award, National Collegiate Athletic Association, 1971
- Medal of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1973
- Chevalier, National Order of the Legion of Honor, Republic of France, 1976
- Career Service Award, National Civil Service League, 1976
- W. Randolph Lovelace II Award, American Astronautical Society, 1977
- Goddard Memorial Trophy, National Space Club, 1979
- Roger W. Jones Award, American University, 1979
- Von Karman Lecturer in Astronautics, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, 1979
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration, Villanova University, 1979
- Distinguished Service Medal of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1982
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal for the design and development of the Space Transportation System, 1983

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Kraft, Christopher C. "Review of Handling Qualities Requirements in Relation to Airplane Operating Problems." NACA N-2400. Virginia: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, October 1950.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Theoretical Analysis of an Airplane Acceleration Restrictor Controlled by Normal Acceleration, Pitching Acceleration, and Pitching Velocity." NACA TN 3243. Virginia: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, September 1954.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Formula for Spaceflight." *Sperryscope* 16 (1964): 21-23.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Flight Operations." *Manned Spacecraft - Engineering Design and Operation*. New York: Fairchild Publications, Inc., 1964.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Apollo Flight Operations." *American Astronautical Society 10th Annual Meeting*. New York, May 1964.

Kraft, Christopher C., and J.H. Boynton. "Flight Operations and Planning and Preparation for Manned Orbital Missions." *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 3rd Annual Meeting*. Paper 66-904. Boston, Massachusetts, 1966.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Solar Power Satellites." Presented at the *Conference on Financing World Energy Requirements*. Hawaii, December 1977.

Kraft, Christopher C. "Space Exploration in the Year 2001." Presented at *Session XIII of the Midwest Research Institute*. Kansas City, Missouri, January 1978.

Kraft, Christopher C. "The Solar Power Satellite Concept: A Space Program Perspective." *Journal of Energy* 2 (1978): 193-195.

Kraft, Christopher C. "The Solar Power Satellite Concept—The Past Decade and the Next Decade." Presented at the *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 15th Annual Meeting and Technical Display*. Washington DC, February 1979.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 19 SEPTEMBER 1997