

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Eugene F. Kranz

**ORAL HISTORY:** 19 March 1998  
8 January 1999  
28 April 1999

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Parks College of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, 1954

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE:** Captain, Air Force (1955 - 1958, reserve 1972)

**PRE-NASA CAREER:**

Flight Test Loads Engineer, McDonnell Aircraft, (1954-1955)  
Flight Test Engineer and Supervisor of Carrier and Missile System Flight Test  
Maintenance and Checkout, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, (1958-1960)

**NASA CAREER:**

NASA Space Task Group, Langley, Virginia  
Flight Control Operations Branch (1960-1962)

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas (formerly Manned Spacecraft Center)  
Chief, Flight Control Operations Branch, Mercury Assistant Flight Director, and  
Gemini Flight Director (1962-1968)

Chief, Flight Control Division, Flight Director for the Apollo and Skylab Programs,  
Flight Director, First Lunar Landing, and for return of Apollo 13 crew and Flight  
Operations Director during Skylab Program (1969-1974)

Deputy Director of Flight Operations, Space Transportation System (STS) Mission  
Operations Director (1974-1983)

Director, Mission Operations, Space Transportation System (STS) Mission  
Operations Director (1983-1994)

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Retired

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- President, Senior Executive Service (SES) Meritorious Executive, 1980, 1985, 1992
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society (AAS), 1982

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Lawrence Spree Award, Anaheim, California, 1967
- Alumni Merit Award, St. Louis University, 1968
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1969 and 1970
- Presidential Medal of Freedom, Co-recipient, 1970
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1970, 1981, and 1988
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 1973
- SES Distinguished Rank Award, 1986
- AAS Space Flight Award, 1987
- Robert R. Gilruth Award, 1988
- Astronautics Engineer Award, National Space Club, 1992

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS:**

Schultz, Ron. Unconventional Wisdom: Twelve Remarkable Innovators Tell How Intuition Can Revolutionize Decision Making. New York, NY : HarperBusiness, 1994.

**BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

American Men & Women of Science: A Biographical Directory of Today's Leaders in Physical, Biological and Related Sciences, 17<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1990, s.v. Kranz, Eugene.

Dethloff, Henry C. Suddenly, Tomorrow Came . . . : A History of the Johnson Space Center. The NASA History Series. Houston: NASA, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1993.

Kranz, Eugene F. "NASA Culture Study." Interview by Howard E. McCurdy on 9 November 1987. NASA Historical Reference Collection, NASA Headquarters History Office, Washington, DC.

Murray, Charles and Catherine Bly Cox. Apollo: The Race to the Moon. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989.

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