

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: James Arthur Lovell, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: 25 May 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

University of Wisconsin

B.S. in United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland (1952)

School of Aviation Safety, University of Southern California (1961)

Advanced Management Program, Harvard Business School (1971)

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Captain, United States Navy (Retired-1973)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland (1958)

Student Test Pilot

Program Manager F4H Phantom

Safety Engineer, Fighter Squadron 101, Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia (1962)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Astronaut (1962-1973)

Special Consultant to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (1967)

Director, Science and Applications (1971-1973)

POST-NASA CAREER:

President and Chief Executive Officer, Bay-Houston Towing, Houston, Texas (1973-1977)

President, Fisk Telephone Systems, Houston, Texas (1977-1981)

Group Vice President, Business Communication Group, Central Corporation, Chicago, Illinois (1981)

President, Lovell Communications, Chicago, Illinois

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

President, Lovell Communications, Chicago, Illinois

Chairman, Mission HOME

MISSIONS:

Gemini VII (GT-7)

- Crew: Commander Frank Borman, Pilot James A. Lovell, Jr.
- Launched: 4 December 1965 at 2:30:03 P.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL

- Duration: 13 days, 18 hours, 35 minutes, 1 second
- Landed: 18 December 1965 in the Atlantic Ocean
- Mission Highlights: All primary and secondary objectives were successfully completed. Primary objective-completion of 14-day mission to evaluate the effects of long duration spaceflight on the crew. Secondary objectives-provide rendezvous target for Gemini VI-A; conduct stationkeeping activities with Gemini VI-A and with second stage of Gemini launch vehicle; conduct 20 experiments; evaluate lightweight pressure suit; evaluate spacecraft reentry capability; conduct systems tests.

Gemini XII (GT-12)

- Crew: Commander James A. Lovell, Jr., Pilot Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin
- Launched: November 11, 1966 3:46:33 pm EST. from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 94 hours, 34 min, 31 seconds
- Landed: 15 November 1966 in the Atlantic Ocean
- Mission Highlights: EVA time 5 hours, 30 min. All primary objectives and most secondary objectives were met. Docked maneuvers were canceled due to a propulsion anomaly during Gemini Agena target vehicle (GATV) insertion. The GATV was not placed in a 555.6km orbit because its attitude control gas was depleted by earlier maneuvers.

Apollo 8

- Crew: Commander Frank Borman, Command Module Pilot James A. Lovell, Jr., Lunar Module Pilot William A. Anders
- Launched: 21 December 1968 at 7:51 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 3 hours, 0 minutes, 42 seconds
- Landed: 27 December 1968 at 10:52 A.M. EST in the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: First manned lunar orbital mission

Apollo 13 (AS-508)

- Crew: Commander James A. Lovell, Jr., Command Module Pilot John L. “Jack” Swigert, Lunar Module Pilot Fred W. Haise, Jr.
- Launched: 11 April 1970 at 2:13 P.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 5 days, 22 hours, 54 minutes
- Landed: 17 April 1970 at 1:07 P.M. EST in the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: No primary objectives were achieved. On April 13 Apollo 13 experienced a critical failure when an oxygen tank exploded. This incident prompted a mission abort. The three astronauts returned safely to Earth.

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Member, Experimental Test Pilots
- Member, Explorers Club

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Distinguished Service Medal
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- Congressional Space Medal of Honor
- French Legion of Honor
- Naval Astronaut Wings
- Two Navy Distinguished Flying Crosses
- American Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award
- Co-Recipient American Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Awards, 1966 and 1968
- Co-Recipient Harmon International Trophy 1966, 1967, 1969
- FAI De Laval Medal, 1967
- Gold Space Medal, Athens, Greece, 1967
- Co-Recipient Time Magazine, Men of the Year for 1968
- Co-Recipient General Thomas D. White USAF Space Trophy, 1968
- Co-Recipient Robert J. Collier Trophy, 1968
- Co-Recipient Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, 1969
- Co-Recipient H. H. Arnold Trophy, 1969
- Co-Recipient Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award, 1969
- City of New York Gold Medal, 1969
- City of Houston Medal for Valor, 1969
- National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal, 1969
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Special Trustees Award, 1969
- Institute of Navigation Award, 1969
- Honorary Doctorate, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1969
- University of Wisconsin's Distinguished Alumni Service Award, 1970
- Honorary Doctor of Science, Rockhurst College, 1970
- Co-Recipient AIAA Haley Astronautics Award, 1970
- Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1970

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Lovell, Jim and Jeffrey Kluger. Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Andrew Chaikin, A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts, (New York: Penguin Books, 1994), 590.

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The International Edition, (New York: Macmillian Publishing Company, 1993), 83-84.

Jim Lovell, and Jeffrey Kluger, Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994).

NASA Astronaut Fact Book, NASA Information Summaries, (March 31, 1997), 41.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (July 1970), James A. Lovell, Jr. Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 18 FEBRUARY 1999