

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Richard M. "Mike" Mullane

ORAL HISTORY: 24 January 2003

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Military Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1967

M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, 1975

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Air Force (1964-1990)

- Student, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY (1964-1967)
- United States Air Force Flight School, Mather Air Force Base, CA (1967-date unknown)
- RF-4C Weapons Operator, 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Tan Son Nhut AFB, South Vietnam (1969)
- 32nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Royal AFB, Alconbury, England (1970-1973)
- Graduate Student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (1973-1975)
- Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, CA (1975-1976)
- 3246th Test Wing, Eglin AFB, FL (1976-1977)
- Mountain Home AFB, ID (1977-1978)
- Detailed to NASA (1978-1990)
- Retired as Colonel (1990)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1978-1990)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1978-1990)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

Writer and Professional Speaker (1990-present)

MISSIONS:

STS 41-D (*Discovery*)

- Crew: Commander Henry W. Hartsfield, Pilot Michael L. Coats, Mission Specialist 1 Judith A. Resnik, Mission Specialist 2 Steven A. Hawley, Mission Specialist 3 R. Michael Mullane, Payload Specialist Charles D. Walker
- Launched: 30 August 1984 at 8:41:50 A.M. EST EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 0 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds
- Landed: 5 September 1984 at 6:37:54 A.M. PDT, Edwards AFB, California

- Mission Highlights: STS 41-D deployed three satellites: Satellite Business Systems (SBS-D), SYNCOM IV (also known as Leasat-2), and the AT&T TELSTAR 3-C. The mission also tested the Office of Aerospace Technology (OAST-1), a solar array design that NASA was considering for a future, long-duration space station. STS 41-D also flew the scientific payloads Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System III (CFES), Radiation Monitoring Equipment (RME), Shuttle Student Involvement Program (SSIP), a classified Air Force Experiment, an IMAX camera, and Cloud Logic to Optimize Use of Defense Systems (CLOUDS). STS 41-D is also notable for the icicle that formed as a result of a fault in the wastewater dump nozzle design. Commander Hartsfield, however, used the Remote Operating System (RMS) to “manually” break off the icicle.

STS-27 (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander Robert L. “Hoot” Gibson, Pilot Guy S. Gardner, Mission Specialist 1 R. Michael Mullane, Mission Specialist 2 Jerry L. Ross, Mission Specialist 3 William M. Shepherd
- Launched: 2 December 1988 at 9:30:34 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 105 hours, 5 minutes, 35 seconds
- Landed: 6 December 1988 at 3:36:09 P.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: STS-27 was a dedicated Department of Defense (DOD) mission. The classified payload is rumored to be a LACROSSE satellite, a geosynchronous, radar imaging reconnaissance satellite that the mission placed in orbit over the Soviet Union.

STS-36 (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander John O. Creighton, Pilot John H. Casper, Mission Specialist 1 R. Michael Mullane, Mission Specialist 2 David C. Hilmers, Mission Specialist 3 Pierre J. Thuot
- Launched: 28 February 1990 at 2:50:22 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 4 days, 10 hours, 18 minutes, 22 seconds
- Landed: 4 March 1990 at 10:80:44 A.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: STS-36 was a dedicated Department of Defense (DOD) mission. The classified payload is rumored to be a KeyHole (KH) infrared reconnaissance satellite.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- NASA Space Flight Medal
- Commander's Trophy, USAF Navigator Training School

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

- R. Mike Mullane, producer, The Ten Thousand Nights Dream Silver Burdett Ginn, video, 1991.
- R. Mike Mullane, Red Sky: A Novel of Love, Space, and War (Salt Lake City, UT: Northwest Publishers, 1993).
- R. Mike Mullane, Liftoff! An Astronaut's Dream (Parsippany, N.J.: Silver Burdett Press, 1995).
- R. Mike Mullane, Do Your Ears Pop in Space? And 500 other Surprising Questions about Space Travel, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997).

REFERENCES:

David M. Harland, The Space Shuttle: Roles, Missions, and Accomplishments (Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, in association with Praxis Publishing, 1998), 187-88.

Douglas B. Hawthorne, Men and Women of Space (San Diego: Univelt, 1992), 508.

Johnson Space Center News Release, "Mullane to Retire from NASA, Air Force," JSC 90-019, 20 February 1990, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The International Space Station Edition (New York: MacMillan Library Reference USA, 1999), 10.

"Military Intelligence Satellites," Goddard Space Flight Center Home Page, Online, http://rst.gsfc.nasa.gov/AppA/Part1_31.html (Last Updated n.d.; Accessed On 11 July 2002).

R. Mike Mullane, Liftoff! An Astronaut's Dream (Parsippany, N.J.: Silver Burdett Press, 1995).

Richard Michael "Mike" Mullane, NASA Biographical Data Sheet (March 1990), Richard Michael "Mike" Mullane Key Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Shuttle Mission Archive, STS 41-D (12),” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/41-d/mission-41-d.html> (Last Updated 26 September 2000; Accessed 11 July 2002).

“STS-27,” Astronautix Homepage, Online, <http://www.astronautix.com/details/sts27.htm> (Last Updated 9 March 2001; Accessed 25 June 2002).

Mike Mullane Homepage, Online, www.Mikemullane.com (Last Updated 2001; Accessed on 11 July 2002).

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