

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Bryan D. O'Connor

ORAL HISTORY: 17 March 2004
20 April 2006
18 September 2006
19 March, 2007
24 March 2010
3 August 2011
28 December 2012

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, 1968

M.S. in Aeronautical Systems, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL, 1970

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Marine Corps (1968-1991)

- Commissioned as Second Lieutenant (1968)
- Completed Marine Infantry Officers' Basic School, Quantico, VA (1968)
- Flight Training, Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL (1968-1970)
- Naval Aviator, Kingsville Naval Air Station, TX (1970)
- Squadron Pilot, VMA-214, El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, CA (1970-71)
- Advanced Flight Training Instructor, Kingsville Naval Air Station, TX (1971)
- Graduated Naval Safety School, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA (1972)
- Squadron Pilot, VMA-513, Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, SC (Date Unknown)
- Squadron Pilot, VMA-513, Iwakuni, Japan (Date Unknown)
- Squadron Pilot, VMA-513, Kwangju, Korea (Date Unknown)
- Squadron Pilot, USS Guam (Date Unknown)
- Graduated Naval Test Pilot School, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD (1976)
- Test Pilot, Naval Air Test Center's Strike Test Directorate, Patuxent River, MD (1976-1979)
- Project Pilot Officer, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD (1977-1979)
- Deputy Program Manager (Acquisition), Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C. (1979-1980)
- Detailed to NASA (1980)
- Retired as Colonel (1991)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1980-1991)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1980-1991)
- Aviation Safety Officer, Flight Crew Operations, Directorate (Date Unknown)

- Astronaut Representative, Space Shuttle System Safety Review Panel (Date Unknown)
- Manager, NASA Headquarters Action Center (1986)
- Assistant to Space Shuttle Program Manager (1986-1988)
- Chairman, Space Flight Safety Panel (1986-1989)
- Assistant Manager for Operations, National Space Transportation System Program Office (1987)
- Deputy Director, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1989-1991)
- National Research Council, Washington, D.C. (1988-1989)
 - Chairman, Committee on Space Shuttle Upgrades
- NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (1991-1996)
 - Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Flight (1991-1994)
 - Deputy Director, Space Station Redesign (1993-Date Unknown)
 - Space Station Program Transition Director (1993-1994)
 - Chairman, Space Station Name Committee (1993)
 - Director, Space Shuttle Program (1994-1996)
- NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (2002-Present)
 - Associate Administrator, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (2002-Present)
 - Ex-Officio Member, Space Shuttle Mishap Interagency Investigation (2003)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Marine Corps (1991)

- Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Detachment, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD (1991)
- Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Flight Test and Engineering Group (1991)

Futron Corporation, Washington, D.C. (1996-2002)

- Director of Engineering

Airship Resources Corporation (Date Unknown)

- Member, Advisory Board

MISSIONS:

STS 61-B (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander Brewster H. Shaw, Jr., Pilot Bryan D. O'Connor, Mission Specialist 1 Mary L. Cleave, Mission Specialist 2 Sherwood C. Spring, Mission Specialist 3 Jerry L. Ross, Payload Specialist 1 Rodolfo Neri Vela, Payload Specialist 2 Charles D. Walker
- Launched: 26 November 1985 at 7:29:00 p.m. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 21 hours, 4 minutes, 49 seconds
- Landed: 3 December 1985 at 1:33:49 p.m. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: Crew deployed three communications satellites: Mexico's MORELOS-B, Australia's AUSSAT-2, and RCA Americom satellite SATCOM KU-2. Astronauts conducted two experiments designed to test assembling erectable structures in space: the Experimental Assembly of Structures in Extravehicular Activity (EASE) and the Assembly Concept for Construction of Erectable Space

Structures (ACCESS). Ross and Spring conducted two EVAs as part of the EASE/ACCESS experiments. Middeck payloads included: Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES), Diffusive Mixing of Organic Solutions (DMOS), Morelos Payload Specialist Experiments (MPSE), and Orbiter Experiments (OEX). There were also Get Away Special (GAS) experiments and the IMAX Cargo Bay Camera (ICBC) located in the payload bay.

STS-40 (*Columbia*)

- Crew: Commander Bryan D. O'Connor, Pilot Sidney M. Gutierrez, Mission Specialist 1 James P. Bagian, Mission Specialist 2 Tamara E. Jernigan, Mission Specialist 3 Michael Seddon, Payload Specialist 1 Fredrick Gaffney, Payload Specialist 2 Millie-Hughes Fulford
- Launched: 5 June 1991 at 9:24 a.m. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 9 days, 2 hours, 14 minutes, 20 seconds
- Landed: 14 June 1991 at 8:39 a.m. PDT, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: This was the fifth Space Shuttle mission and the first mission dedicated solely to life sciences. Space Shuttle Life Sciences-1 (SLS-1) experiments centered on physiology experiments on six body systems (cardiovascular/cardiopulmonary, renal/endocrine, blood, immune, musculoskeletal, and neurovestibular) of humans, rodents, and jellyfish. Other payloads included: twelve Get Away Special (GAS) experiments dealing with materials science, plant biology, and cosmic radiation, a Middeck Zero-Gravity Dynamics Experiment (MODE), and seven Orbiter Experiments (OEX).

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Naval Safety School Top Graduate
- Marine Basic School Platoon Honor Man
- Naval Test Pilot School's Distinguished Graduate Award
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Navy Unit Citation
- Navy Meritorious Service Medal
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal
- NASA Space Flight Medal, 1985, 1991
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1988, 1989
- NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 1992
- Defense Superior Service Medal, 1992
- NASA Silver Snoopy Award
- AIAA System Effectiveness and Safety Award
- AIAA Barry M. Goldwater Education Award
- Aviation Week and Space Technology Laureate

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

Bryan O'Connor, Space Flight Operations Contingency Action Plan, (Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1995).

Bryan O'Connor and Jeremiah Pearson, Space Shuttle Program Contingency Action Plan, Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1994).

Bryan O'Connor, Wilber Trafton, and Charles Gunn, Payload Flight Assignments: NASA Mixed Fleet, (Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1995).

REFERENCES:

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space (New York: Macmillan Library Reference USA, 1999), 532-534.

"Citation to Accompany the Award of the Defense Superior Service Medal to Bryan D. O'Connor," Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"Cox helps lead transition from *Freedom* to redesigned space station," Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center) 2 August 1993, 1.

"Exceptional Service Medal," Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, 13 April 1988, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"Exceptional Service Medal," Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, 15 December 1988, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Telephone Directory (1987) Organization Files, Johnson Space Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Telephone Directory (1990) Organization Files, Johnson Space Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Telephone Directory (1991) Organization Files, Johnson Space Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"NASA Announces Space Flight Personnel Changes," NASA Press Release, NASA Spacelink Homepage, Online, <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/NASA.News/NASA.News.Releases/Previous.News.Releases/94.News.Releases/94-04.News.Releases/94-04-28> (Release Dated 28 April 1994; Accessed June 2003).

“NASA Announces Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation Board (The Gehman Board),” Permanent Homepage, Online, <http://www.permanent.com/archi.msg/551.htm> (Article Dated 3 February 2003; Accessed June 2003).

“NASA reopens space station job notices,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center) 11 October 1993, 1,4.

“NASA takes account of the human factor,” Houston Chronicle Homepage, Online, <http://www.chron.com/content/interactive/space/missions/mir/news/1995/19950807.html> (Article Dated 1995; Accessed June 2003).

Bryan D. O'Connor Biographical Data Sheet (January 2002) NASA Johnson Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/oconnor-bd.html>.

“O'Connor to leave NASA,” NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Press Release 96-23, 2 February 1996, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Outstanding Leadership Award,” Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, 15 April 1992, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Safety Associate Administrator,” NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Press Release 02-78, 30 April 2002, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Space Flight Medal,” Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, 3 December 1985, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Space Flight Medal,” Bryan D. O'Connor Key Personnel File, 15 June 1992, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Space Station Organization Changes Announced,” NASA Press Release, NASA Spacelink Homepage, Online, <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/NASA.News/NASA.News.Releases/Previous.News.Releases/93.News.Releases/93-07.News.Releases/93-07-27> (Release Dated 27 July 1993; Accessed June 2003).

“Space station redesign team eyes all options,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center) 12 April 1993, 1.

“Statement of Bryan O'Connor, Futron Corporation, before the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space: Shuttle Safety,” SpaceRef Homepage, Online, <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=5962> (Release Dated 6 September 2001; Accessed June 2003).

“Station options compare apples to apples,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center) 14 June 1993, 1, 4.

“STS 61-B,” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online,
<http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/61-b/mission-61-b.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001;
Accessed June 2003).

“STS-40,” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online,
<http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-40/mission-sts-40.html> (Last Updated 29 June
2001; Accessed June 2003).

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