

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Donald H. Peterson

ORAL HISTORY: 14 November 2002

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S., United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1955

M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, 1962

Coursework at the University of Tennessee Space Institute, Tullahoma, TN, (Dates Unknown)

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Air Force (1955-1980)

- Pilot Training (Dates Unknown)
- Flight Instructor and Military Training Officer, Air Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX (Dates Unknown)
- Nuclear Systems Analyst, Air Force Systems Command (Dates Unknown)
- Fighter Pilot, Tactical Air Command (Dates Unknown)
- United States Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School, Class 66-B, Edwards Air Force Base, CA (Dates Unknown)
- Aerospace Research Pilot, Manned Orbiting Laboratory (1967-1969)
- Detailed to NASA (1969-1980)
- Retired as Colonel (1980)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1969-1985)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1969-1985)
- Program Assessment Office, Space Shuttle Program Office (1975-1976)
- Orbital Flight Test Mission Group, Orbital Flight Test Office (1978-1979)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

- Aerospace Consultant

MISSIONS:

Mission Number STS-6 (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Paul J. Weitz, Pilot Karol J. Bobko, Mission Specialist Donald H. Peterson, Mission Specialist F. Story Musgrave
- Launched: 4 April 1983 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 5 days, 0 hours, 23 minutes, 42 seconds
- Landed: 9 April 1983 at 10:53 A.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California

- Mission Highlights: The primary payload of STS-6 was the TDRS-1 satellite connected to the IUS. There were problems with the IUS final burn, and the TDRS and IUS detachment was delayed. Other payloads included the Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES), the Monodisperse Latex Reactor (MLR), the Radiation Monitoring Experiment (RME), the Night/Day Optical Survey of Lightning (NOSL), and three Get Away Special (GAS) canisters. Peterson and Musgrave conducted the first EVA in the space shuttle program, and they accumulated four hours and seventeen minutes of EVA while working in the shuttle cargo bay.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Air Force Commendation Medal (Date Unknown)
- Meritorious Service Medal (Date Unknown)
- NASA Johnson Space Center Group Achievement Award, 1972

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

P. R. Carlson, T. J. Conomos, R. J. Janda, and D. H. Peterson, "Principal Sources and Dispersal Patterns of Suspended Particulate Matter in Nearshore Surface Waters of the Northeast Pacific Ocean and the Hawaiian Islands," E73-10487; NASA-CR-131307 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1972).

P. R. Carlson, T. J. Conomos, R. J. Janda, and D. H. Peterson, "Principal Sources and Dispersal Patterns of Suspended Particulate Matter in Nearshore Surface Waters of the Northeast Pacific Ocean," E75-10266; NASA-CR-142641 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1974).

L. E. Slotter and D. H. Peterson, "Fatigue and Fracture of Ultrahigh Strength Steel and Titanium Roll Bonded and Diffusion Bonded Laminates," AD-A086511; ATC-R-9200/OCR-31 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1980).

Donald H. Peterson, et al., "Extravehicular Activities Limitations Study. Volume 1: Physiological Limitations to Extravehicular Activity in Space," NAS 1.26:172098 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1988).

Donald Peterson, James Otto, and Kenea Douglas, "Radome Boresight Error and Compensation Techniques for Electronically Scanned Arrays," AIAA Paper 93-2648 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1993).

REFERENCES:

Arnold D. Aldrich, Interview by Kevin M. Rusnak, 24 May 2002, CD, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, 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).

C. Gordon Fullerton, Rebecca Wright, 6 May 2002, CD, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Henry W. Hartsfield, Jr., Interview by Carol Butler, 8 November 2000, CD, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

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

Johnson Space Center Telephone Directory (January 1976), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Donald H. Peterson, NASA Biographical Data Sheet (1994), Donald H. Peterson Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Donald H. Peterson, NASA Biographical Data Sheets (1979, 1982, 1983, 1984), Donald H. Peterson Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“STS-6 Flight Summary,” NASA Spacelink Homepage, Online, <http://spacelink.nasa.gov> (Last Updated n.d.; Accessed 19 December 2001).

“STS-6 Space Shuttle Mission Chronology,” Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/chron/sts-6.htm> (Last Updated 30 October 2000; Accessed 19 December 2001).

Paul J. Weitz, Interview by Carol Butler, 8 November 2000, CD, Transcript, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 26 JULY 2002