

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: 20 February 1998

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, 1945
Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River Naval Air Base, MD, 1951
Naval War College, Newport, RI, 1958

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Rear Admiral, United States Navy (retired)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

United States Navy
USS Cogswell, destroyer (1945)
Test Pilot (1950 - 1957)
Readiness Officer on staff of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet (1958)

NASA CAREER:

Astronaut (1959 - 1963), (1969 - 1974)
Chief, Astronaut Office, Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX (1963 - 1969)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Chairman, Marathon Construction Company, Houston, TX
Seven Fourteen Enterprises
Mercury Seven Foundation founder.
President and Chairman, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (formerly Mercury Seven Foundation)

MISSIONS:

Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3) (*Freedom 7*)

- Crew: Alan B. Shepard, Jr.
- Launched: 5 May 1961 at 09:34 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 15 minutes, 28 seconds
- Landed: 5 May 1961 at 09:49 A.M. EST, Atlantic Ocean near Grand Bahama Island
- Mission Highlights: First American in space.

Apollo 14 (AS-509)

- Crew: Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Command Module Pilot Stuart A. Roosa, Lunar Module Pilot Edgar D. Mitchell

- Launched: 31 January 1971 at 05:03:02 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 216 hours, 01 minutes, 58 seconds
- Landed: 9 February 1971 at 04:05:00 P.M. EST, Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: Lunar landing and geological exploration of Fra Mauro highlands.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Distinguished Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Navy Astronaut Wings
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, two
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal
- Smithsonian Institution's Langley Gold Medal, 5 May 1964
- Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) Iven C. Kinchloe Award
- National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Robert J. Collier Trophy, 1962
- American Astronautical Society (AAS) Flight Achievement Award, 1971
- National Space Hall of Fame, August 1969
- International Aerospace Hall of Fame, San Diego, 1971
- Hall of Honor, National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola Naval Air Station, May 1990
- Congressional Space Medal of Honor, 1978

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Carpenter, M. Scott, L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., We Seven (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1962)

Moon Shot (Atlanta: Turner Publishing, Inc., 1994)

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