

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Thomas Patten Stafford

ORAL HISTORY: 15 October 1997

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS with honors, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, 1952

Graduated from Squadron Officer School

Graduated from Air Force Experimental Flight Test Pilot School, 1959

MILITARY EXPERIENCE:

Lieutenant General, United States Air Force, Retired November 1979

PRE-NASA CAREER:

United States Air Force

- Basic Pilot's Training, James Connally Air Force Base, Texas (1952-1953)
- Advanced Interceptor Training, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida
- Pilot, 54th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota
- Pilot, Flight Leader, and Flight-Test Maintenance Officer, 496th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Hahn Air Base, West Germany (1955-1958)
- Student, Instructor, and Chief of the Performance Branch, Experimental Flight Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, California (1958-1962)

NASA CAREER:

NASA MSC/JSC, Houston, Texas

- Astronaut (1962-1975)
- Chief, Astronaut Office (1969-1971)
- Deputy Director, Flight Crew Operations (1971-1973)

POST-NASA CAREER:

- Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, California (1975-1978)
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Air Force Headquarters, Washington DC (1978-1979)
- Chairman of the Board, Omega Watch Co., New York City
- Consultant, Defense Technology, Oklahoma
- Director, Board of Directors Allied-Signal Corporation
- Director, Board of Directors Baroid Corporation
- Director, Board of Directors KMS Industries, Inc.
- Director, Board of Directors Pacific Scientific Corporation
- Director, Board of Directors Seagate Technology, Inc.

- Director, Board of Directors Wheelabrator Technology, Inc.
- Executive Vice President of Commercial Sales and Finance, American Farm Lines, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Member of the Board, Bendix Corporation, Southfield, Michigan
- Member of the Board, Gulfstream American, Savannah, Georgia
- Vice Chairman of the Board, Gibraltar Explorations, Ltd., Oklahoma City
- Vice Chairman, Stafford, Burke, and Hecker Inc., Alexandria, Virginia
- Advisor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Advisor to the Air Force Systems Command
- Defense Advisor to President Reagan during Presidential Campaign
- Member of President Reagan's Transition Team
- Member, Vice President Quayle's Space Policy Advisory Board
- Member, National Research Council's Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board
- Member, Committee on NASA Scientific and Technological Program Reviews
- Chairman, Synthesis Group, NASA Outreach Program (1990-1991)

MISSIONS:

Gemini VI-A (GT-6A)

- Crew: Commander Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Pilot Thomas P. Stafford
- Launched: 15 December 1965 at 8:37:26 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 25 hours, 51 minutes, 24 seconds
- Landed: 16 December 1965 at 10:28:50 A.M. EST in the Atlantic Ocean
- Mission Highlights: First manned rendezvous (with Gemini VII).

Gemini IX-A (GT-9A)

- Crew: Commander Thomas P. Stafford, Pilot Eugene A. Cernan
- Launched: 3 June 1966 at 8:39:33.335 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 3 Days, 0 hours, 20 min, 50 seconds
- Landed: 6 June 1966 at 9:00:28 A.M. EST
- Mission Highlights: The primary objective of rendezvous and docking could only be partially achieved because the launch shroud on the ATDA failed to jettison. In lieu of docking, Gemini IX-A performed a number of rendezvous maneuvers, including a simulation of lunar module rendezvous. During the EVA maneuvers, Cernan was overexerted and his visor became fogged, causing the EVA to be aborted before he was able to test the maneuvering unit. The secondary objective, the Agena Micrometeorite Collection experiment was not attempted because of the GATV malfunction.

Apollo 10 (AS-505)

- Crew: Commander Thomas P. Stafford, Command Module Pilot John W. Young, Lunar Module Pilot Eugene A. Cernan
- Launched: 18 May 1969 at 12:49:00 A.M. EDT from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 08 Days, 0 hours, 03 min, 23 seconds
- Landed: 26 May 1969 at 12:52 A.M. EDT

- Mission Highlights: Conducted successful dress rehearsal for first manned lunar landing. Completed first manned CSM/LM operations in cislunar and lunar environment. Transmitted first live color TV from space.

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (Apollo 18/AS-210)

- Crew: Commander Thomas P. Stafford, Docking Module Pilot Donald K. “Deke” Slayton, Command Module Pilot Vance D. Brand
- Launch: 15 July 1975 at 03:50:01 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 217 hours, 28 minutes, 23 seconds
- Landed: 24 July 1975 at 05:18:24 P.M. EST, Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: The primary objective was to perform rendezvous, docking and undocking with spacecraft from two different countries (USA/USSR) to simulate spacecraft recovery. Of secondary importance was the demonstration of crew transfer and interaction of diverse crews and control-centers.

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, Society of Test Pilots
- Life Member, Naval Academy Alumni Association
- Member, Association of Space Explorers - USA
- Member, Explorers Club
- Honorary Life Member, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA)
- Member, Masonic Lodge

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Air Force Command Pilot Astronaut Wings
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters
- Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with Six Oak Leaf Clusters
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Three Oak Leaf Clusters
- Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale Gold Space Medal
- Honorary Doctor of Communications Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts
- Honorary Doctor of Humanities Oklahoma Christian College, Edmond, Oklahoma
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Oklahoma
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Cordoba, Argentina
- Honorary Master of Humane Letters, Southwestern University, Weatherford, Oklahoma
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster
- National Defense Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster
- Presidential Medal of Freedom

- Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
- Air Force Experimental Flight Test Pilot School's A.B. Honts Award, Class 58-C, 1959
- American Astronautical Society (AAS) Flight Achievement Award, 1966
- Co-Recipient American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Award, 1966
- Harmon International Aviation Trophy (Awarded Twice), 1966, 1976 (Co-Recipient)
- Honorary Doctor of Science, Oklahoma City University, 1967
- Flying Tiger Biannual Award 1969
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Special Trustee Award, 1969
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Western State University College of Law of Orange County, California, 1969
- NASA Johnson Space Center's Certificate of Commendation, 1970
- Honorary Doctor of Aeronautical Engineering, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida, 1970
- Co-Recipient Octave Chanute Award 1976
- National Geographic Society's General Thomas D. White US Air Force Space Trophy, 1976
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Space Award, 1976
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Kitty Hawk Sands of Time Award, 1978
- Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) James H. Doolittle Award for Management, 1979
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 1979

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Co-Author, "Pilot's Handbook for Performance Flight Training," US Air Force

Co-Author, "Aerodynamics Handbook for Performance Flight Testing," US Air Force

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 14 OCTOBER 1997