

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Paul Joseph Weitz

ORAL HISTORY: 26 March 2000
8 November 2000

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania, 1954

MS in Aeronautical Engineering, US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, 1964

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Captain, United States Navy (retired, 1 June 1976)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

United States Navy

Combat Information Center (CIC) Officer, U.S.S. *John A. Bole* (DD-755) (1954-1955)

Flight Training Squadron (1955-1956)

A-4 *Skyhawk* Tactics Officer, VA-44, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida (1956-1960)

Project Officer, VX-5, China Lake, California (1960-1962)

VAH-4, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington (1964-1966)

NASA CAREER:

Manned Spacecraft Center/Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Astronaut (1966-1987)

Astronaut Support Crew, Apollo 12 (1969)

Pilot, Skylab 2 (1973)

Deputy Chief, Astronaut Office (1981-1987)

Commander, STS-6 (1983)

Deputy Center Director (1987-1993)

Acting Center Director (1993-1994)

Acting Associate Center Director (1994)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Unknown

MISSIONS:

Skylab I (SL-2)

- Crew: Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Jr., Pilot Paul J. Weitz, Science Pilot Joseph P. Kerwin

- Launched: 25 May 1973 at 09:00 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 28 Days, 49 minutes
- Landed: 22 June 1973 at 09:49 A.M. EDT
- Mission Highlights: Repair and recover orbital workshop. Demonstrate feasibility of long duration spaceflight of one month.

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 space shuttle EVA in the space shuttle program, and they accumulated four hours and seventeen minutes of EVA while working in the shuttle cargo bay.

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Association
- Member, Masons

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- US Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- US Navy Air Medal (5 times)
- US Navy Commendation Medal (for Combat Missions during Vietnam War)
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal
- Federal Aviation Agency, Space Mechanic Technician Award, 1973
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Kitty Hawk Award, 1973
- City of Chicago, Gold Medal, 1974
- Robert J. Collier Trophy, 1974
- Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association, Distinguished Alumni Award, 1974
- American Astronautical Society, Flight Achievement Award, 1974
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Haley Astronautics Award, 1974
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale, V. M. Komarov Award, 1974
- Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, 1975
- Harmon International Aviation Trophy for Astronaut, 1975

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

NASA Biographical Data Sheets, Paul J. Weitz Personnel File, Public Affairs Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

“NASA News Press Release: Abbey named JSC Deputy Director; Weitz to retire in April,” [Johnson Space Center Public Affairs Office Homepage], [Online], (9 July 1999 – Last Updated) Available: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/pao/media/rel/Past-News-Releases-93-94-95/94-005.DOC.html> [20 July 1999 – Accessed].

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