

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Alan LaVern Bean

ORAL HISTORY: 23 June 1998

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1955
Graduated Navy Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland, 1960
School of Aviation Safety, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, 1962

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Captain, United States Navy (retired)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

United States Navy
Electronics Technician, U.S. Naval Reserve, Dallas, Texas (1950-1951)
Fighter Pilot, Attack Squadron VA-44, Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Florida (1956-1960)
Test Pilot, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland (1960-1962)
Fighter Pilot, Attack Squadron 172, Cecil Field, Florida (1962-1963)

NASA CAREER:

Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas
Astronaut, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1963-1981)

POST-NASA CAREER & CURRENT OCCUPATION: Artist

MISSIONS:

Apollo 12 (AS-507)

- Crew: Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Jr., Command Module Pilot Richard F. "Dick" Gordon, Lunar Module Pilot Alan L. Bean
- Launched: 14 November 1969 at 11:22 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 10 Days, 4 hours, 36 minutes, 23 seconds
- Landed: 24 November 1969 at 3:58 P.M. EST in the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: Second manned lunar landing. Demonstrated the capability to achieve pinpoint landings on the lunar surface. Retrieved parts of the unmanned Surveyor 3, which had landed on the Moon in April 1967. Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package (ALSEP) deployed.

Skylab II (SL-3)

- Crew: Commander Alan L. Bean, Pilot Jack R. Lousma, Science Pilot, Owen K. Garriott
- Launched: 28 July 1973 at 7:10:50.5 A.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center
- Duration: 59 days, 11 hours, 9 minutes, 4 seconds
- Landed: 25 September 1973 at 6:20 P.M. EDT in the Pacific Ocean
- Mission Highlights: Achieved 150% of the scientific goals and demonstrated the feasibility of long-duration spaceflights exceeding two months.

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Member, Society of Experimental Test Pilots

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Honorary Doctorate of Science, Texas Wesleyan College, 1972
- Honorary Doctorate of Engineering Science, University of Akron, Ohio, 1974
- Two NASA Distinguished Service Medals
- Navy Astronaut Wings
- Two Navy Distinguished Service Medals
- Rear Admiral William S. Parsons Award for Scientific and Technical Progress
- University of Texas Distinguished Alumnus Award
- University of Texas Distinguished Engineering Graduate Award
- Godfrey L. Cabot Award
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Trustees Award
- Texas Press Association's Man of the Year Award, 1969
- City of Chicago Gold Medal
- Robert J. Collier Trophy, 1973
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale's Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal, 1973
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale's V. M. Komarov Diploma, 1973
- Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, 1975
- AIAA Octave Chanute Award, 1975
- AAS Flight Achievement Award, 1974

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

“Alan L. Bean,” NASA Biographical Data Sheet, April 1979, Biographical Files, Johnson Space Center History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The First 25 Years (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1987), s.v. “Alan Bean.”

Andrew Chaikin, A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts (New York: Penguin Books, 1994), 580-583,586.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 25 FEBRUARY 1998