

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Sherwood “Woody” C. Spring

ORAL HISTORY: 18 November 2003

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in General Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1967

M.S. in Aerospace Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 1974

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Army (1963-1994)

- Student, additional training including airborne, ranger, and basic officer’s courses (1967-1968)
- Officer, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Republic of Vietnam (1968-1969)
- Helicopter Pilot training, Fort Wolters, TX (1969-1970)
- Helicopter Pilot, 1st Cavalry Division, Republic of Vietnam (1970-1971)
- Pilot training, Fort Stewart, GA (1971-Date Unknown)
- Pilot training, Fort Rucker, AL (Date Unknown-1972)
- Graduate Student, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (1972-1974)
- Flight-Test Engineer, Army Flight Test Facility, Edwards Air Force Base, CA (1974)
- Student, Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, MD (1974-1975)
- Test Pilot, Army Flight Test Facility, Edwards Air Force Base, CA (1976-1979)
- Operations Officer, 19th Aviation Battalion, Pyontaek, Republic of South Korea (1979-1980)
- Detailed to NASA (1980-1988)
- Retired as Colonel (1994)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston (1980-1988)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1980-1988)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Army

- Director of Army Space Program Office, Fairfax, VA (1988-1994)
- Program Manager, Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) (1988-1994)

The Application Science Corporation (TASC), Reston, VA (1994-1995)

Pacific Sierra Research Corporation, Arlington, VA (1995-2000)

Veridian Corporation, Arlington, VA (2000-2003)

General Dynamics, Arlington, VA (2003-Present)

- Director, Information Technologies (Present)

MISSION:

STS 61-B (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander Brewster H. Shaw, Jr., Pilot Bryan D. O'Connor, Mission Specialist 1 Mary L. Cleave, Mission Specialist 2 Sherwood C. Spring, Mission Specialist 3 Jerry L. Ross, Payload Specialist 1 Rodolfo Neri Vela, Payload Specialist 2 Charles D. Walker
- Launched: 26 November 1985 at 7:29:00 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 21 hours, 4 minutes, 49 seconds
- Landed: 3 December 1985 at 1:33:49 P.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: Primary payload consisted of three communications satellites: MORELOS-B for Mexico; AUSSAT-2 for Australia; and SATCOM KU-2, an RCA Americom satellite deployed using a PAM-D2 designed for heavy payloads. Two experiments onboard, Experimental Assembly of Structures in Extravehicular Activity (EASE) and Assembly Concept for Construction of Erectable Space Structure (ACCESS), were designed to test assembly of structures in space. Spring and Ross conducted two spacewalks lasting more than 12 hours in support of the experiments. Secondary payloads included: Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES); Diffuse Mixing of Organic Solutions (DMOS); Morelos Payload Specialist Experiments (MPSE); Orbiter Experiments (OEX); Get Away Specials (GAS); and an IMAX Cargo Bay Camera (ICBC). The mission was shortened one revolution due to lightning conditions at runway.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star (2 times)
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal (3 times)
- Air Medal (9 times)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- NASA Space Flight Medal
- American Astronautical Society Victor A. Prather Award, 1985
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1988
- Honorary D.Sc. Rhone Island College
- Honorary D.Sc. Bryant College
- Honorary L.H.D. Johnson & Wales College
- Honorary Member Steel Workers Union

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

Heard, Walter L., Jr., et al., "EVA space construction – Experience and fundamental issues," 89A43721 (Hampton VA, Houston: NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1987): 23.

Heard, Walter L., Jr., et al., "Astronaut/EVA construction of Space Station," A88-31376 (Hampton VA, Houston: NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1988): 12-18.

Levin, George M.; Ross, Jerry L.; Spring, Sherwood C., "An overview of the EASE/ACCESS space construction," 89A45783 (Houston: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1988): 10.

REFERENCES:

"Award Descriptions and Recipients," American Astronautical Society Homepage, Online, <http://www.astronautical.org/membership/AwardsHistory.html> (Last Updated 2002; Accessed 16 June 2003).

"Col. Sherwood C. "Woody" Spring (Ret.)," The Astronaut Connection Homepage, Online, <http://www.nauts.com/bios/nasa/spring.html> (Last Updated 2000; Accessed 13 June 2003).

Douglas B. Hawthorne, Men and Women of Space (San Diego: Univelt, Incorporated, 1992), 690-691.

Mark Carreau, "Astronaut Spring to leave NASA for job with Army," The Houston Chronicle Homepage, Online, <http://www.chron.com/content/interactive/space/archives/88/880604.html> (Article Dated 4 June 1988; Accessed 13 June 2003).

Meaghan Wims, "The *Columbia* Tragedy: Loss and Comfort," Providence Journal-Bulletin Homepage, Online, Accessed via Lexus-Nexus (Article Dated 4 February 2003; Accessed 13 June 2003).

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: International Space Station Edition (New York: Macmillan Library Reference USA, 1999), 253.

"Myers, Truly to present NASA Honor Awards," Space News Roundup (NASA Johnson Space Center), 8 April 1988, 1.

Sherwood C. Spring NASA Biographical Data Sheet (December 1994), Johnson Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/spring-sc.html> (Last Updated n.d; Accessed 8 May 2003).

"Shuttle Mission Archive STS 61-B (23)," Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/61-b/mission-61-b.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 28 November 2001).

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 2 July 2003