

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- APRIL 2011

65 Years Ago - 1946

April 16: First German V-2 rocket launched in the U.S. reached an altitude of five miles. White Sands Proving Grounds (WSPG), NM.

60 Years Ago - 1951

April 18: First Aerobee rocket launched with a biomedical experiment. Holloman AFB, NM.

50 Years Ago - 1961

April 12: Vostok 1, Yuri Gagarin launched, 0600 UTC, Baikonur, USSR. First human in orbit.

April 25: Mercury Atlas 3 launched, capsule test, first stage failure, abort successful, 11:15 a.m. EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 27: Explorer 11 (S 15) launched by a Juno, 9:17 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 28: Little Joe 5B launched. suborbital Mercury capsule test. 9:04 a.m., WFF, VA.

45 Years Ago: 1966

April 7: Atlas Centaur 8 launched, containing Surveyor mass model, 8:00 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 8: OAO 1 launched by Atlas Agena, satellite lost after two days due to spacecraft systems failure. 2:35 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 23: First Saturn 5 is tested at Mississippi Test Facility.

40 Years Ago – 1971

April 19: Salyut 1 launched By Proton K from Baikonur. First launch of an orbital scientific station.

April 24: San Marco 3 launched by Scout, 2:32 a.m., EDT, San Marco Platform, Kenya.

April 27: James C. Fletcher took office as the fourth NASA Administrator.

35 Years Ago – 1976

April 17: Closest Ever Flyby of the Sun by Spacecraft (Helios 2).

April 22: NATO III A launched by Delta, 2046 UTC, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago - 1981

April 12: STS-1 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched, 7:00 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen. First flight of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, and first flight of new Space Transportation System. Landed April 14 at 10:21 a.m., PST, Edwards AFB, CA. Mission Duration: 2 days, 6 hours, 20 minutes.

25 Years Ago - 1986

April 18: Titan 34D exploded shortly after lift-off from Vandenberg AFB. Crippled U.S. launch and surveillance capability.

20 Years Ago - 1991

April 5: STS-37 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched, 9:22 a.m.. EST. KSC. Crew: Steven R. Nagel, Kenneth D. Cameron, Linda M. Godwin, Jerry L. Ross and Jerome "Jay" Apt. After launch of Gamma Ray Observatory (later named Compton Gamma Ray Observatory) on the 7th, the Shuttle landed at Edwards AFB, CA, April 11, at 9:55 a.m.,EST. Mission Duration: 6 days, 32 minutes.

April 28: STS-39 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 7:33 a.m.. EDT. KSC. Crew: Michael L. Coats, L. Blaine Hammond, Guion S. Bluford, Gregory S. Harbaugh, Richard J. Hieb, Donald R. McMonagle, and Charles Lacy Veach. DoD Mission AFP-675 launched into orbit May 1. Landed at KSC, May 6, 2:55 p.m. EDT. Mission duration: 8 days, 7 hours and 22 minutes.

April 28: USA-70 deployed from Space Shuttle *Discovery*.

10 Years Ago – 2001

April 7: Mars Odyssey, an orbiter designed to map and search for water on Mars, was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 15:02 UTC on 7 April 2001. It reached Mars on October 23, 7:30 pm PDT at 10:30 EDT.

April 28: Soyuz-TM 32 is a Russian passenger craft that was launched from Baikonur by a Soyuz-U rocket at 07:37 UTC, carrying Talgat A. Musabayev and Yuri M. Baturin. This mission also carried the first commercial space tourist, U.S. businessman Dennis Tito. Launch of the first "taxi" flight to the ISS (6A), bringing a "fresh" Soyuz crew return vehicle for the ISS crew.

April 19: STS-100 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched 2:40 p.m.EDT from KSC. Crew: Kent V. Rominger, Jeffrey S. Ashby, Chris A. Hadfield, Scott E. Parazynski, John L. Phillips, Umberto Guidoni (Italy), and Yuri V. Lonchakov (Russia). Mission to install Canadarm-2 on the ISS, and to transport an Italian cargo container, Raffaello. Landing May 1, 2001 at 12:10 p.m. EDT. Mission duration: 11 days, 21 hours, 30 minutes.

5 Years Ago – 2006

April 28: The two meteorological satellites CloudSat and CALIPSO (Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation) were launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 6:02 a.m. EDT. They work in concert with the three earlier satellites (Aqua, PARASOL, and Aura), all forming what is named as A-Train. All five have almost the same orbit, crossing the equator within 15 minutes of each other.