

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- FEBRUARY 2012

50 Years Ago – 1962

February 8: Tiros 4 launched by Thor Delta, 7:43 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

February 20: Mercury Atlas 6 (MA-6), Friendship 7 launched, with astronaut John H. Glenn, 9:47:39 a.m., first American to orbit the earth, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

February 27: Discoverer 38 (Corona Mission 9030) launched by Thor, Vandenberg AFB. The last Discoverer named Corona mission.

45 Years Ago – 1967

February 4: Lunar Orbiter 3 launched by Atlas Agena, 8:17 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

February 8: Diademe 1 launched by Diamant A, Hammaguir, Algeria, French satellite.

February 15: Diademe 2 launched by Diamant A, Hammaguir, Algeria, French satellite.

40 Years Ago – 1972

February 14: USSR launches Luna 20 (Lunik 20) at 03:27:59 UTC by Proton K from Baikonur which soft lands on the Moon four days later. A rotary-percussion drill retrieved samples from the surface which were returned to Earth by capsule on February 25.

35 Years Ago -1977

February 7: USSR launches Soyuz-24 from Baikonur. Cosmonauts: Viktor V.Gorbatko and Yuri N.Glazkov. Ferry flight to Salyut-5 space station.

February 18: Enterprise, the first space shuttle orbiter, was flight tested at Dryden Flight Research Center.

30 Years Ago – 1982

February 25: Westar IV launched by Delta, 7:04 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

25 Years Ago – 1987

February 5: Soyuz TM-2 launched from Baikonur, 2138 Moscow time, Yuri V. Romanenko and Aleksandr I. Laveykin docked with space station Mir. Romanenko established world space record of 326 days in space.

February 12: SDS launched by Titan 34D for DOD, 10:40 p.m., PST, Vandenberg AFB.

February 26: GOES 7 launched by Delta, 6:05 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

15 Years Ago – 1997

February 10: Russia launches Soyuz TM-25 aboard a Soyuz-U rocket from Baikonur. Cosmonauts: Vasili V. Tsibliyev, Aleksandr I. Latuzkin, Reinhold Ewald (Germany). Ferry flight to space station MIR.

February 11: STS-82 (Space Shuttle Discovery) launch at 3:55 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Kenneth D. Bowersox, Scott J. Horowitz, Mark C. Lee, Steven A. Hawley, Gregory J. Harbaugh, Steven L. Smith, and Joseph R. Tanner. Second in a series of planned servicing missions to the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Landed February 21 at 3:32 am EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 9 days, 23 hours, 38 minutes.

February 26: Superbird B1, a Japanese communications satellite, and Arabsat 1C, a Saudi Arabian communications satellite were launched at 23:58:10 UTC using the Ariane-44L launch vehicle from the Kourou Space Center, French Guiana.

10 Years Ago – 2002

February 5: HESSI (High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager) solar flare observatory launched at 3:58 PM EDT by a Pegasus XL rocket which was released from a L-1011 aircraft flying out of the Cape Canaveral AFS. Renamed Reuven Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (RHESSI) on March 29, 2002.

February 23: Launch of Intelsat 904 aboard an Ariane 44L from Kourou, French Guiana at 07:00 UTC.

5 Years Ago – 2007

February 17: THEMIS 1, THEMIS 2, THEMIS 3, THEMIS 4, and THEMIS 5, a fleet of nearly identical NASA magnetospheric satellites were launched by a Delta 2 from Cape Canaveral at 23:01 UTC on 17 February 2007. As part of Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms or THEMIS, they are designed to track the origins of substorms within the Earth's magnetic field, which produce auroras.