

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JANUARY 2012

50 Years Ago – 1962

January 3: NASA announced name of two-manned spacecraft, "Gemini."

January 13: Discoverer 37 launched by Thor Agena, 4:41 p.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB.

January 24: Composite 1 (Navy), GREB IV, Lofti III, Injun II, and Surcal launched by Thor Ablestar, 4:30 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

January 26: Ranger 3 launched by Atlas Agena, 3:30 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla, Vandenberg AFB.

45 Years Ago – 1967

January 11: Intelsat II F-2 launched by Delta, 5:55 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Also known as Pacific 1.

January 26: ESSA 4 launched by Delta, 12:32 p.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB.

January 27: Apollo 1/AS 204 fire, 6:31 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla, Astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White II, and Roger B. Chaffee die in capsule fire.

January 27: Outer Space Law Treaty signed, Washington, D.C.

40 Years Ago – 1972

January 5: President Richard M. Nixon announced decision that U.S. will build a reusable space shuttle, San Clemente, CA.

January 22: Intelsat IV F-4 launched by Atlas, 7:12 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

January 31: HEOS A-2 launched by Delta, 12:20 p.m., EST, WSMC.

35 Years Ago -- 1977

January 27: NATO III-B launched by Delta, 7:49 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago – 1982

January 15: RCA-IV or Satcom 4 launched by Delta, 8:54 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

20 Years Ago – 1992

January 22: STS-42 (Space Shuttle Discovery) launched at 9:52 a.m, EST, KSC. Crew: Ronald J. Grabe, Stephen S. Oswald, Norman E. Thagard, David C. Hilmers, William F. Readdy, Roberta L. Bondar (Canada), and Ulf D. Merbold (ESA-Germany). Carried in the cargo bay was the International Microgravity Laboratory 1 (IML-1) a pressurized manned Spacelab module, to explore in depth the complex effects of weightlessness on living organisms and materials processing. Landed January 30, 8:07 a.m., PST, Edwards Air Force Base, CA. Mission Duration: 8 days, 1 hour, 14 minutes.

15 Years Ago – 1997

January 12: STS-81 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched at 4:27 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Michael A. Baker, Brent W. Jett, Jr., John M. Grunsfeld, Marsha S. Ivins, Peter J. K. Wisoff, and Jerry M. Linenger. Fifth Mir docking. Astronaut John Blaha, who had been on Mir since September 19, 1996, was replaced by astronaut Jerry Linenger. Landed at KSC on January 22, 9:23 a.m., EST. Mission Duration: 10 days, 4 hours, 56 minutes.

5 Years Ago – 2007

January 10: SRE 1, India's first recoverable capsule, was launched by a PSLV-C7 rocket from Sriharikota at 03:57. It was a technology demonstrator for the planned 2010 launch of a lunar mission.