

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JANUARY 2013

55 Years Ago – 1958

January 4: Sputnik 1 reentered.

January 17: Polaris First launched, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

January 31: Explorer 1 launched by Jupiter C, 10:48 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First US satellite.

50 Years Ago - 1963

January 4: Mariner 2 ceased transmitting data.

January 22: A NASA-DoD agreement provided that Merritt Island Launch Area would be operated as a NASA installation, separate and distinct from the Air Force's Atlantic Missile Range.

45 Years Ago - 1968

January 7: Surveyor 7 launched by Atlas Centaur, 10:48 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Landed on the Moon January 9.

January 22: Apollo 5 launched by Saturn 1B, 5:48 p.m., EST, KSC, unmanned test. First Earth orbital test (robotic) of Apollo spacecraft Lunar Module (LM) ascent and descent stages.

40 Years Ago - 1973

January 8: Luna 21 launched by Proton K, 0655 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

January 16: Lunokhod 2 released from Luna 21 on moon's surface.

January 18: Representative Charles E. Bennett (D-Fla.) introduced H.J.R. 198, to redesignate Cape Kennedy as Cape Canaveral.

January 23: National Aeronautics and Space Council (NASC) abolished by Executive Order.

January 30: US/USSR Apollo Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) crewmembers announced, Washington,. D.C./Houston/Moscow.

35 Years Ago - 1978

January 6: Intelsat IV A F-3 launched by Atlas Centaur, 7:15 p.m., Cape Canaveral, Fla.

January 10: USSR launches Soyuz 27 from Baikonur aboard a Soyuz rocket at 12:26 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-6 space station. Crew: Oleg G. Makarov and Vladimir A. Dzhanibekov. Returned aboard Soyuz 26 (first time it has occurred).

January 20: USSR launches Progress 1, the first in a series of automated space ferries, to carry supplies to and dock automatically with Salyut 6.

January 26: International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE- Explorer 57) is launched aboard a Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral at 17:36 UTC.

30 Years Ago - 1983

January 26: IRAS launched by Delta, 6:17 p.m., PST, Vandenberg AFB. First Infrared Astronomical Satellite all-sky survey for objects that emit infrared radiation and provide a catalog of infrared sky maps.

25 Years Ago – 1988

January 5: Unions from 15 nations met in Florida for the initial conference on pay and other labor issues for workers who construct and service space vehicles.

January 16: NASA retired “Landsat-1”, the first spacecraft designed to discover and monitor the Earth’s natural resources, after 5.5 years of operation in outer space.

20 Years Ago - 1993

January 13: STS-54 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*). Launched 8:59 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: John H.Casper; Donald R.McMonagle, Gregory J.Harbaugh, Mario Runco, and Susan J.Helms. Launch of TDRS-6 satellite. First U. S. military woman to fly in space -- Susan Helms. Landing: January 19, 8:37 a.m. EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 5 days, 23 hours, 38 minutes.

January 24: USSR launches Soyuz TM-16 from Baikonur aboard a Soyuz rocket at 05:58 UTC. Ferry flight to Mir space station. Crew: Gennadi M. Manakov and Aleksandr F. Poleshchuk.

15 Years Ago - 1998

January 6: Lunar Prospector launched to examine Moon’s crust for buried ice by Athena 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 02:28:44 UTC, 9:29 p.m.

January 22: STS-89 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*). Launched 9:48 p.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Terrence W.Wilcutt, Joe F. Edwards,Jr, James F. Reilly, Michael P.Anderson, Bonnie J. Dunbar, Salizhan S.Sharipov (Russia) and Andrew S.W. Thomas. 8th Mir docking. Andrew Thomas replaces David Wolf. Landing: January 31, 5:35 p.m. EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 8 days, 19 hours, 48 minutes.

January 29: Fifteen countries met in Washington to sign an agreement to establish the framework for cooperation among the partners on the design, development, operation, and utilization of the International Space Station.

January 29: Russia launched Soyuz TM-27 from Baikonur to dock with Mir space station. Crew: Nikolai M. Budarin, Talgat A. Musabayev (Ukraine), and Léopold Eyharts (France).

10 Years Ago – 2003

January 12: ICESAT (Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite) and CHIPS (Cosmic Hot Interstellar Spectrometer astrophysics spacecraft) were both launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 7:45 p.m. EST. ICESAT carries a single instrument, GLAS (Geoscience Laser Altimeter System) which enables accurate surface level measurements of ice sheets. CHIPS, a University-Class Explorer (UNEX) mission data will help scientists determine the electron temperature, ionization conditions, and cooling mechanisms of the million-degree plasma believed to fill the local interstellar bubble.

January 16: STS-107 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched at 10:39 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew:: Rick D. Husband, William C. McCool, Michael P. Anderson Kalpana Chawla, David M. Brown, Laurel B. S. Clark, and Ilan Ramon (Israel). As a research mission, the crew was kept busy 24 hours a day performing various chores involved with science experiments. KSC landing was planned for Feb. 1 after a 16-day mission but, Columbia and crew were lost during reentry over East Texas at about 9 a.m. EST, 16 minutes prior to the scheduled touchdown at KSC. Mission Duration: 15 days, 22 hours, 20 minutes, 22 seconds. First Israeli astronaut to fly in space - Ilan Ramon.

January 22: After more than 30 years in space, the Pioneer 10 spacecraft sends its last signal to Earth.

January 25: SORCE (SOLar Radiation and Climate Experiment) Sun-Earth Connection satellite that was launched at 20:13 UTC by a Pegasus XL rocket released from a L-1011 cargo aircraft flying out of Cape Canaveral. It provides state-of-the-art measurements of incoming x-ray, ultraviolet, visible, near-infrared, and total solar radiation. The measurements specifically address long-term climate change, natural variability and enhanced climate prediction, and atmospheric ozone and UV-B radiation.

5 Years Ago – 2008

January 15: Thuraya 3, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) geostationary communications satellite, was launched by a Zenit 3SL rocket from Odyssey, a floating Pacific Ocean platform, by Sea Launch a year after an on-pad failure.