

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JUNE 2016

70 Years Ago -- 1946

June 28: First fully instrumented upper air research V-2 launched, reached height of 67 miles. White Sands Proving Grounds, NM.

60 Years Ago -- 1956

June 29: Aerobee Hi NRL-50, a sounding rocket with ionosphere research instruments, was launched by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

55 Years Ago -- 1961

June 30: Meteoroid Satellite A or Explorer S55 launched by Scout, failed to orbit, 1:09 p.m.. EDT, Wallops Flight Center, VA.

50 Years Ago -- 1966

June 2: Surveyor 1 landed on the moon, first US spacecraft to do so. Launched by Atlas Centaur, May 30, 9:41 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

June 3: Gemini 9 (Gemini Titan 9A) launched, astronauts Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene A. Cernan. 8:39 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

June 6: OGO 3 launched by Atlas Agena, 10:48 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

June 23: Pageos launched by Thor Agena, 8:12 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

45 Years Ago -- 1971

June 4: Last flight of the X-24A, Dryden Flight Research Facility, CA. Pilot John A. Manke.

June 6: Soyuz 11 launched, 0455 UTC, Baikonur, USSR. First crew to the Salyut 1 space station and to work on a space station. Crew composed of Georgi T. Dobrovolskiy, Vladislav N. Volkov and Viktor I. Patsyev. They died during reentry, June 30.

June 20: Planetary Atmosphere Experiment Test (PAET) launched, 3:31 p.m., EDT, on Scout launch vehicle, Wallops Flight Center, VA. Ames Research Center used this 137-pound (62.1-kilogram) spacecraft, to study spacecraft heating and entry into Earth's atmosphere.

40 Years Ago -- 1976

June 9: Marisat 2 launched by Delta, 8:09 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

June 18: Gravity Probe A launched by Scout, 7:41 a.m., EDT, Wallops Flight Center, VA.

June 19: The Viking 1 orbiter arrived in Mars orbit. The primary mission objectives were to obtain high resolution images of the Martian surface, characterize the structure and composition of the atmosphere and surface, and search for evidence of life.

June 22: Salyut 5 (USSR Space Station) launched by Proton K from Baikonur at 18:04:00 UTC.

35 Years Ago -- 1981

June 8: Molniya 3-16 launched at 03:33:00 UTC by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya from Plesetsk, for long-range telephone and telegraph radio communications and transmission of television programs in the USSR. It replaced the Molniya 3-14.

30 Years Ago -- 1986

June 6: "Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident" (commonly called the Rogers Commission Report) released.

25 Years Ago -- 1991

June 5: STS-40 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*). Launched at 9:25 a.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Bryan D. O'Connor, Sidney M. Gutierrez, M. Rhea Seddon,, James Bagian, Tamara Jernigan, F. Andrew Gaffney, and Millie Hughes-Fulford. Spacelab (SLS-1) in cargo bay. Landed June 14 at 8:39 a.m. PDT, at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. Mission Duration: 9 days, 2 hours, and 14 minutes.

20 Years Ago – 1996

June 20: STS-78 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched at 10:49 a.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Terence T. Henricks, Kevin R. Kregel, Susan J. Helms, Richard M. Linnehan, Charles E. Brady, Jr., Jean-Jacques Favier (France), and Robert Brent Thirsk (Canada). Carried Spacelab (LMS-1). Landed July 7 at 8:37 a.m., EDT, at KSC. Mission Duration: 16 days, 21 hours, and 48 minutes.

June 27: Galileo probe, Ganymede flyby.

15 Years Ago – 2001

June 30: MAP (Microwave Anisotropy Probe), an NASA Explorer mission measuring the temperature of the cosmic background radiation (the remnant heat from the Big Bang), was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 3:46 EDT.

10 Years Ago – 2006

June 30: NASA announces name of the Crew Launch Vehicle, Ares 1 and heavy-lift cargo booster, Ares 5.

5 Years Ago – 2011

June 7: The Russian Soyuz-TMA 2M was launched from Baikonur at 20:12 UT by a Soyuz launch vehicle carrying Expedition 28's Mike Fossum, Sergei Volkov and Japanese astronaut Satoshi Furukawa to the ISS.