

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MAY 2011

60 Years Ago -- 1951

May 14: The Air Force Missile Test Center established at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

50 Years Ago -- 1961

May 5: Freedom 7, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr., first U.S. suborbital flight, 9:34 a.m., EST. Eastern Space Missile Center. FL, launched atop a Redstone IRBM.

May 25: President John F. Kennedy sets Apollo lunar landing and return goal within the decade, in a speech to Congress, Washington, D.C.

45 Years Ago -- 1966

May 15: Nimbus 2 launched by Thor Agena, 3:55 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

May 25: Atmosphere Explorer B (AE-B) or Explorer 32 launched. Upper atmospheric experiments, 9:00 EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

40 Years Ago -- 1971

May 19: Mars 2 launched, by Proton-K, 1616 UTC. Baikonur, USSR, first Mars impact.

May 28: Mars 3 launched, 1522 UTC, Baikonur, USSR. First Mars soft landing.

May 30: Mariner 9 launched by Atlas Centaur. First spacecraft to orbit Mars, lifted off at 6:23 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

35 Years Ago -- 1976

May 4: Lageos launched by Delta. 7:00 a.m., PDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

May 13: Comstar 1A launched by Atlas Centaur, 6:28 p.m., EDT. Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago -- 1981

May 22: The second geostationary weather satellite, GOES 5 launched by Delta, 6:29 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. This satellite continuously monitored the temperature, clouds and moisture levels in the atmosphere until it was deactivated in the summer of 1990.

May 23: Intelsat 5B F-1 launched, 6:42 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

25 Years Ago -- 1986

May: "Pioneering the Space Frontier: The Report of the National Commission on Space" (commonly called the NCOS or "Paine Report") released.

May 12: James C. Fletcher takes office as seventh NASA Administrator, his second term in the office.

20 Years Ago – 1991

May 3: “America at the Threshold: America's Space Exploration Initiative”, commonly known as the “Stafford Report” or “Synthesis Group”, released.

May 14: NOAA 12 launched by Atlas E, 11:52 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

May 18: Soyuz TM-12 launched from Baikonur on May 18, 1991, by the U.S.S.R and docked with the MIR space station. On board were two Soviet crewmen: Anatoli P. Artsebarsky and Sergei K. Krikalev; and one British astronaut, Helen P. Sharman, who was the first UK citizen to fly in space.

15 Years Ago – 1996

May 19: STS-77 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched at 6:30 a.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: John H. Casper, Curtis L. Brown, Daniel W. Bursch, Mario Runco, Jr., Marc Garneau (Canada), and Andrew S. W. Thomas. Released an inflatable antenna, IAE, a platform called Spartan 207, and an experimental 35 kg. minispacecraft, PAMS-STU deployed on flight day 4. Landed May 29 at 7:09 a.m., EDT, KSC. Mission Duration: 10 days and 40 minutes.

10 Years Ago – 2001

May 8: XM 1, also known as Roll, a geosynchronous relay satellite designed to provide one hundred channels of digital music and entertainment to motorists in North America, was launched by a Zenit rocket from a floating platform, Odyssey on the equatorial Pacific ocean operated by the Sea Launch consortium at 6:10 am EDT. (XM 2, also known as Rock, was launched in March 2001.)

May 25: Galileo probe, Callisto flyby.

5 Years Ago – 2006

May 24: GOES 13, a (NOAA) geostationary weather satellite, launched by a Delta 4 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 6:11 pm EDT.