

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES-- OCTOBER 2013

55 Years Ago - 1958

October 1: First day of NASA, Washington, D.C.

October 4: Vandenberg AFB, CA dedicated.

October 7: Project Mercury formally organized along with the Space Task Group, Washington, D.C.

October 11: Pioneer 1, the first spacecraft launched by the new NASA on a Thor Able, an attempted lunar probe, failed, though it reached 70,700 miles altitude, Cape Canaveral, Fla, 4:42 a.m., EST. First observations of Earth's interplanetary magnetic field (Van Allen Belt).

October 15: X-15 rollout, North American plant, Los Angeles, CA.

50 Years Ago - 1963

October 16: Vela 1 and 2 (USAF & AEC sponsored) launched by Atlas Agena at 2:24 UTC. First nuclear explosion detection satellites, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

45 Years Ago - 1968

October 11-22: Apollo 7, Astronauts Walter M.Schirra Jr., Donn F.Eisele, and Walter Cunningham.

Schirra, Eisele, Cunningham, first manned flight of Apollo Project, 11:02 a.m., EDT, KSC.

First test of Apollo Command/Service Module in Earth orbit operated by astronauts in flight.

First three member crew mission in the Apollo lunar landing program.

First flight with full crew support equipment.

First launch from Launch Complex 34.

First Saturn IB crew assisted flight.

First CSM rendezvous & station-keeping maneuvers.

First extensive checkout of CSM systems during mission.

First flight of Block II Apollo spacecraft.

First eight Service Propulsion System firings.

First CM landing in ocean.

First live network TV broadcast from space during a crew assisted flight.

First astronauts to experience head colds during mission.

First flight of the Apollo space suits.

First crew to drink coffee in space.

October 23: First HL-10 powered flight, Jerauld R. Gentry, DFRF, CA.

October 24: Last X-15 flight (No. 199), William H. Dana, DFRF, CA.

October 25: USSR launched Soyuz 2 aboard Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 09:00 UTC. Although this spacecraft was designated Soyuz 2, it was unmanned. On October 23 or 27, served as a target vehicle for the radio search and attempted docking of the manned Soyuz 3.

October 26: USSR launched Soyuz 3 aboard Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 08:34 UTC. Crew: Georgi T. Beregovoi.

40 Years Ago – 1973

October. 9: President Nixon signed the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused By Space Objects.

October. 9: The original name Cape Canaveral was restored by the Department of the Interior, acting on unanimous recommendation by an interagency committee of the Board of Geographic Names.

October 26: Explorer 50 (IMP 8 or J) launched aboard Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral at 02:26 UTC.

35 Years Ago - 1978

October 13: Tiros N launched by Atlas F, 7:23 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB. First of a new series of weather satellites.

October 24: Nimbus 7/Cameo launched by Delta, 4:14 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB. Provided global evidence of Antarctic ozone depletion in the 1980s.

30 Years Ago – 1983

October 10: Venera 15 (Soviet probe), entered orbit around Venus.

October 19: Intelsat 5 F7 launched by Ariane 1 from Kourou, French Guiana at 00:45:36 UTC.

20 Years Ago – 1993

October 18: STS-58 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched, 10:53 a.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: John E. Blaha, Richard A. Searfoss, M. Rhea Seddon, William S. McArthur, Jr., David A. Wolf, Shannon W. Lucid, and Martin J. Fettman. Columbia's crew performed a series of experiments to gain knowledge on how the human body adapts to the weightless environment of space. Landing November 1 at 10:05 a.m. EST, Edwards AFB, Calif. Mission Duration: 14 days, 0 hours, 12 minutes.

15 Years Ago – 1998

October 24: Deep Space 1 – launched By Delta 2 at 12:08 UTC from Cape Canaveral. First mission under NASA's New Millennium Program, it tested new technologies, including an ion engine. On its extended mission, it encountered Comet Borrelly and returned the best images and other science data ever from a comet. The spacecraft was retired on December 18, 2001.

October 29: STS 95 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched 2:19 p.m. EST, KSC. Astronauts Curtis L. Brown, Steven W. Lindsey, Scott E. Parazynski, Stephen K. Robinson, Pedro Duque, Chiaki Mukai, and John H. Glenn.

First Space Shuttle launch watched by a U. S. President (Bill Clinton).

First astronaut from Spain to fly in space. (P. Duque)

First Japanese astronaut to fly twice. (C. Mukai)

Mission objectives included conducting a variety of science experiments in the pressurized SPACEHAB module and the deployment and retrieval of the Spartan free-flyer payload. STS-95 returned John Glenn to orbit - 36 years, eight months and nine days after he became the first American to orbit the Earth.

Landing November 7 at 12:04 p.m. EST, KSC. Mission duration: 8 days, 21 hours, 44 minutes.

10 Years Ago – 2003

October 15: Shenzhou 5 (meaning Divine Vessel 5) is a Chinese (PRC) manned satellite that was launched by a Long March 2F (translated from Changzheng 2F) rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center (JSLC) in northwestern China at 01:00 UTC. This was the People's Republic of China's (PRC) first manned space mission with taikonaut Yang Liwei.

October 18: Soyuz TMA 3 was launched by a Soyuz-FG rocket from Baikonur at 05:38 UTC. Crew: a Russian, (Alexander Kaleri), an American, (Michael Foale), and a Spaniard, (Pedro Duque) to the International Space Station (ISS).

5 Years Ago – 2008

October 12: Soyuz-TMA 13 launched by a Soyuz-FG rocket from Baikonur at 07:01 UT. It carried an American astronaut, Michael Fincke; an American tourist, Richard A. Garriott; and a Russian astronaut, Yuri V. Lonchakov to the International Space Station. It docked with the Zarya module of the ISS at 08:26 UT on 14 October. The tourist, along with two long-time ISS residents, returned in the previously docked TMA-12 on 23 October, leaving behind the two TMA-13 astronauts for a six-month stay in the ISS.

October 19: IBEX (Interstellar Boundary EXplorer) heliospheric probe launched by a Pegasus-XL rocket riding under the belly of L-1011 cargo plane over Kwajalein Island, at 17:47 UT. The probe will monitor the energetic H and O atoms arriving from the boundary between heliosphere and the interstellar medium.

October 22: Chandrayaan 1, an Indian (ISRO) lunar satellite designed to map the lunar surface, launched by a PSLV-C11 (also called PSLV-XL) rocket from Sriharikota on the south-eastern coast of India at 00:52 UT. It is the 68th of the lunar missions that began with the Soviet Luna 1 on January 2, 1959.