Apollo Finding Aid

Apollo Mission Summary:

“That's one small step for [a] man. One giant leap for mankind.”
– Neil Armstrong

The national effort that enabled Astronaut Neil Armstrong to speak those words as he stepped onto the lunar surface fulfilled an American goal set by President Kennedy. Project Apollo’s goals went beyond landing Americans on the moon and returning them safely to Earth. They included

- establishing the technology to meet other national interests in space;
- achieving preeminence in space for the United States;
- carrying out a program of scientific exploration of the Moon; and
- developing man’s capability to work in the lunar environment.

Apollo Missions 7–10, the focus of this finding aid, played significant roles in accomplishing these tasks.

Section 1:

Administrative Summary

There is no one vast “Apollo collection” at NASA. Bodies of records are located at NASA Headquarters (HQ) Archives, at the Centers involved in the Apollo program, and at the National Archives (NARA). Records available the HQ Archives include copies made before records were sent to NARA, records that were obtained as part of various authors’ research collections, press clippings, NASA-published materials, family donations, copies obtained from the internet, or materials found to have agency and/or public interest. In keeping with archival principles, they have been kept and described in the context in which they were received, not grouped together simply because they are related to an Apollo mission. This finding aid consists only of materials housed or supported by the HQ Archives. It does not encompass any of the Center materials, nor does it delve extensively into records in NARA’s possession. The intention is not to be an exhaustive guide to all Apollo 7–10 records everywhere, but to make HQ Archives records more broadly available.

This finding aid has been divided into three sections. The first section carries descriptions of the types of records, permission and use statements, and a collection description. The original intent was to separate it by mission, but much of the records span the missions, leaving the finding aid bulky and difficult to use. It made more sense to separate them by type of records. The second
section holds the mission descriptions. There, users will find an overview of the mission objectives, basic facts, and highlights of Apollo Missions 7–10. The third section contains descriptions of each records type, a preview image of the spreadsheet with examples of the kinds of records found in that section.

**Types of Records**
Records types included are books, a spreadsheet export from our Document Management System (DMS), available oral histories, some photo and video, and External Resources that work in tandem with HQ. A master copy of the spreadsheet is hosted on the DMS for researchers to download. Doing so allows researchers to open it on their own, facilitating text search, filter, sorting, and adding their own content for personal use. NASA also maintains a significant collection of photo and video that are separate from the NASA HQ Archives.

**Permission and Use Statements**
NASA images and written information are not protected by copyright unless noted. If copyright is noted on an image or caption, permission should be obtained from the copyright owner prior to use. You may use NASA imagery for educational or informational purposes, including photo collections, textbooks, public exhibits, computer graphical simulations and Web pages. The complete image use policy is available at:
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/features/MP_Photo_Guidelines.html

Photographs may not be used to state or imply the endorsement by NASA employees of a commercial product, process or service, or used in any other manner that might mislead. Strict legal regulations govern NASA policy regarding advertising requests. Companies interested in producing NASA-related advertisements must notify NASA’s Multi-Media Programs in writing. Requests should describe the intended use of NASA imagery in the ads. If possible, layouts or storyboards of the advertisement should be included. When all legal requirements have been met, NASA will send the advertiser an approval letter. For more information visit:
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/features/Advertising_Guidelines.html

Most of the news clippings are under copyright, and permission must be obtained from the holder to reproduce. HQ Archives cannot grant permission for copyright, nor do we maintain the contact information.

**Collection Description**
Apollo materials include textual records, photographs, manuscripts, news clippings, mission transcripts, reports and supplementary material. There are also oral histories, many with transcripts. In most cases, the transcript is the record copy. Material with digitized content available is noted; please contact the HQ Archives to receive a copy. There are extensive collections of Apollo photos across NASA’s Flickr account, and the image Web site. The Flickr albums directly titled as Apollo [Mission Number] will be linked, but there are many others that
may be labeled topically; e.g. “Lunar Module” that merit research. For the image Web site, researchers may search for images, video, and/or audio. Also, mission-related materials will often cross with the other Apollo missions, due to NASA’s personnel longevity. Of particular interest are the press kits and mission transcripts. Newsletters provide a great deal of social context, both of the missions and NASA as a whole. News clippings will have copyright issues, and may be used for research purposes only. Researchers are responsible for contacting the copyright holders for permission to reproduce. HQ Archives does not maintain the contact information.
Section 2:

Mission Descriptions

Apollo 7

Mission Objective
The primary objectives for the Apollo 7 engineering test flight were simple: Demonstrate command and service module (CSM) and crew performance; demonstrate crew, space vehicle and mission support facilities performance during a crewed CSM mission; and demonstrate CSM rendezvous capability.

Mission Facts

Crew
Walter Schirra Jr., Commander
R. Walter Cunningham, Lunar Module Pilot
Donn F. Eisele, Command Module Pilot

Backup Crew
Thomas Stafford, Commander
Eugene Cernan, Lunar Module Pilot
John Young, Command Module Pilot

Payload
CSM-101

Prelaunch Milestones
3/28/68 - S-I ondock at Kennedy
3/28/68 - S-IB ondock at Kennedy
4/7/68 - S-IVB ondock at Kennedy
4/11/68 - S-IU ondock at Kennedy
5/11/68 - launch vehicle at pad
Launch
October 11, 1968; 11:02:45 a.m. EST
Launch Complex 34
Saturn-IB AS-205
First Block II CSM
First crewed CSM mission
First three-person American crew
First live TV downlink

Orbit
Altitude: 141.65 miles
Inclination: 31.608 degrees
Orbits: 163 revolutions of the Moon
Duration: 10 days, 20 hours, 9 minutes, 3 seconds
Distance: 4,546,918.3 miles

Landing
October 22, 1968; 7:11:48 a.m. EDT, Atlantic Ocean
Recovery Ship: USS Essex

Mission Highlights
October 11, 1968: Saturn IB, in its first trial with a crew aboard, provided a perfect launch, and its first stage dropped off 2 minutes, 25 seconds later. The S-IVB second stage took over, giving astronauts their first ride atop a load of liquid hydrogen. At 5 minutes, 54 seconds into the mission, Walter Schirra Jr., the commander, reported, “She is riding like a dream.” About 5 minutes later, an elliptical orbit was achieved 140 × 183 miles above Earth. The crew would orbit the planet 163 times, and spent 10 days, 20 hours in space.

Apollo 7’s achievement led to a rapid review of Apollo 8’s options. The Apollo 7 astronauts went through 6 days of debriefing for the benefit of Apollo 8, and on October 28, 1968, the Manned Space Flight Management Council chaired by George Mueller met at the Manned Spacecraft Center, investigating every phase of the forthcoming mission. The next day brought a lengthy systems review of Apollo 8’s Spacecraft 103. Dr. Thomas O. Paine, NASA Administrator, made the go/no-go review of lunar orbit on November 11, 1968, at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC By this time, nearly all the skeptics had become converts.
Apollo 8

**Mission Objective**

The mission objective for Apollo 8 was to test the coordinated performance of the crew, CSM, and support facilities. The mission also was to demonstrate translunar injection, CSM navigation, communications and midcourse corrections, consumable assessment, and passive thermal control. The detailed test objectives were to refine the systems and procedures relating to future lunar operations.

**Mission Facts**

**Crew**
Frank Borman, Commander  
William A. Anders, Lunar Module Pilot  
James A. Lovell Jr., Command Module Pilot

**Backup Crew**
Neil Armstrong, Commander  
Fred W. Haise Jr., Lunar Module Pilot  
Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., Command Module Pilot

**Payload**
CSM-103

**Prelaunch Milestones**
12/24/67 - S-II stage ondock at Kennedy  
12/27/67 - S-IC stage ondock at Kennedy  
12/30/67 - S-IVB ondock at Kennedy  
1/4/68 - S-IU ondock at Kennedy  
8/14/68 - launch vehicle at pad  
10/17/68 - spacecraft at pad  
12/11/68 - Countdown Demonstration Test

**Launch**
December 21, 1968; 7:51 a.m. EST  
Launch Pad 39A
Saturn-V AS-503
High Bay 1
Mobile Launcher Platform-1
Firing Room 1

**Orbit**
Altitude: 118.82 miles
Inclination: 32.509 degrees
Orbits: 10 revolutions of the Moon
Duration: 6 days, 3 hours, 42 seconds
Distance: 579,606.9 miles

**Landing**
December 27, 1968; 10:52 a.m. EST, Pacific Ocean
Recovery Ship: USS Yorktown

**Mission Highlights**
Apollo 8 launched from Cape Kennedy on December 21, 1968, the first manned spacecraft to leave Earth, reach the Moon, orbit, and return to Earth. Apollo 8 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at 10:51 a.m. EST on December 27. The splashdown was about 5,100 yards from the recovery ship USS Yorktown, 147 hours after launch and precisely on time. According to prior planning, helicopters and aircraft hovered over the spacecraft, and pararescue personnel were not deployed until local sunrise, 50 minutes after splashdown. The Apollo 8 crew reached the recovery ship at 12:20 p.m. EST.

Six telecasts were conducted during the mission: two during translunar coast, two during lunar orbit and two during trans-Earth coast. These transmissions were telecast worldwide and in real time to all five continents. During a telecast on Christmas Eve, the crew read verses from the first chapter of Genesis and wished viewers, “Good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas and God bless all of you—all of you on the good Earth.” All telecasts were of excellent quality, and voice communications were exceptionally good throughout the mission.
**Mission Objective**
The primary objective of Apollo 9 was an Earth-orbital engineering test of the first crewed lunar module, or LM. Concurrent prime objectives included an overall checkout of launch vehicle and spacecraft systems, the crew, and procedures. The flight plan’s top priority was the CSM and LM rendezvous and docking. This was performed twice: once while the LM was still attached to the S-IVB, and again when the LM was active. Further goals included internal crew transfer from the docked CSM to the LM; special tests of the LM’s support systems; crew procedures; and tests of flight equipment and the extravehicular activity, or EVA, mobility unit. The crew also configured the LM to support a two-hour EVA, and simulated an LM crew rescue, which was the only planned EVA from the LM before an actual lunar landing.

**Mission Facts:**

**Crew**
James A. McDivitt, Commander
Russell L. Schweickart, Lunar Module Pilot
David R. Scott, Command Module Pilot

**Backup Crew**
Charles Conrad Jr., Commander
Alan L. Bean, Lunar Module Pilot
Richard F. Gordon Jr., Command Module Pilot

**Payload**
Gumdrop (CSM-104)
Spider (LM-3)

**Prelaunch Milestones**
5/15/68 - S-II stage ondock at Kennedy
9/30/68 - S-IC stage ondock at Kennedy
9/12/68 - S-IVB ondock at Kennedy
9/30/68 - S-IU ondock at Kennedy
1/3/69 - rollout to pad
Launch
March 3, 1969; 11:00 a.m. EST
Launch Pad 39A
Saturn-V AS-504
High Bay 3
Mobile Launcher Platform-2
Firing Room 2

Orbit
Altitude: 118.63 miles
Inclination: 32.552 degrees
Orbits: 151 revolutions of the Moon
Duration: 10 days, 1 hour, 54 seconds
Distance: 4,214,543 miles

Landing
March 13, 1969; 12:01 p.m. EST, Atlantic Ocean
Recovery Ship: USS Guadalcanal

Mission Highlights
Apollo 9 launched from Cape Kennedy on March 3, 1969, into a nominal 117 × 119–mile Earth orbit with Commander James McDivitt, Command Module Pilot David Scott, and Lunar Module Pilot Russell Schweickart aboard.

Two telecasts were made to Earth from Apollo 9. The first, on March 5, lasted for almost 7 minutes. The second telecast on the following day lasted about 13 minutes, and only showed interior views of the LM. Photographs taken as part of the multi-spectral terrain photographic experiment were successful.

On March 13, the 10th day, re-entry was extended by one revolution because of heavy seas in the primary recovery area. Six hundred miles into its 152nd revolution, Apollo 9 splashed down at 23.25 degrees north, 68 degrees west. The crew was within 3 miles and in full view of their recovery ship, about 341 miles north of Puerto Rico. The flight totaled 241 hours, 53 seconds—10 seconds longer than planned. The S-IVB stage reached heliocentric orbit and the LM ascent stage reached Earth orbit. The LM descent stage decayed March 22.
Apollo 10

Mission Objective
Apollo 10 encompassed all aspects of an actual crewed lunar landing, except the landing. It was the first flight of a complete, crewed Apollo spacecraft to operate around the Moon. Objectives included a scheduled 8-hour lunar orbit of the separated lunar module, or LM, and descent to about 9 miles off the Moon’s surface before ascending for rendezvous and docking with the command and service module, or CSM, in about a 70-mile circular lunar orbit. Pertinent data to be gathered in this landing rehearsal dealt with the lunar potential, or gravitational effect, to refine the Earth-based crewed spaceflight network tracking techniques, and to check out LM programmed trajectories and radar, and lunar flight control systems. Twelve television transmissions to Earth were planned. All mission objectives were achieved.

Mission Facts

Crew
Thomas Stafford, Commander
Eugene Cernan, Lunar Module Pilot
John Young, Command Module Pilot

Backup Crew
L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Commander
Edgar D. Mitchell, Lunar Module Pilot
Donn F. Eisele, Command Module Pilot

Payload
Charlie Brown (SM-106)
Snoopy (LM-4)

Prelaunch Milestones
12/10/68 - S-II stage ondock at Kennedy
11/27/68 - S-IC stage ondock at Kennedy
12/3/68 - S-IVB ondock at Kennedy
12/15/68 - S-IU ondock at Kennedy
Launch
May 18, 1969; 12:49 p.m. EDT
Launch Pad 39B
Saturn-V AS-505
High Bay 2
Mobile Launcher Platform-3
Firing Room 3

Orbit
Altitude: 118.83 miles
Inclination: 32.546 degrees
Orbits: 31 revolutions of the Moon
Duration: 8 days, 23 minutes, 23 seconds
Distance: 829,437.5 miles

Landing
May 26, 1969; 12:52:23 p.m. EDT
Pacific Ocean
Recovery Ship: USS Princeton

Mission Highlights
Apollo 10 launched from Cape Kennedy on May 18, 1969, into a nominal 115-mile circular Earth-parking orbit at an inclination of 32.5 degrees. One-and-a-half orbits later, translunar injection occurred. The S-IVB fired to increase velocity from 25,593 to 36,651 feet per second on a free-return trajectory. Twenty-five minutes later, the CSM separated for transposition and docking with the LM, similar to the maneuver performed on Apollo 9. The orbital vehicle was comprised of the S-IVB stage, and its payload of the CSM, the LM and spacecraft-lunar module adapter, or SLA, shroud.

The first live color TV transmissions to Earth began 3 hours after launch when Apollo 10 was 3,570 miles from Earth and concluded when the spacecraft was 9,428 miles away. The transmission showed the docking process and the interior of the CSM. About 4 hours after launch, Apollo 10 separated from the S-IVB stage, which was followed by another telecast from 14,625 miles out. A third TV transmission of pictures of Earth was made from 24,183 miles out, and a fourth telecast of Earth was made from 140,000 miles.

After a midcourse correction, and command and service module separation, Apollo 10 re-entered Earth’s atmosphere May 26. The module splashed down 165 degrees west, and 5 degrees, 8 minutes south in the Pacific Ocean. Landing was within television range of its primary recovery ship, the USS Princeton. Apollo 10 completed a flight of 192 hours, 3 minutes, 23 seconds—1 minute, 24 seconds longer than planned. The Apollo 10 S-IVB third stage and LM ascent stage went into solar orbits. The LM descent stage went into a selenocentric orbit.
Section 3:

Books

Titles published in the NASA History Series (SP-4000 series) can be viewed/downloaded free at the links below.

Printed copies of many titles are available for sale from the NASA Information Center, NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street SW, Suite 1N24, Washington, DC 20546-0001, Phone: 202-358-0000. A complete list of publications available through the NASA Information Center can be found at this link: 
http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/hqlibrary/ic/ic2.htm#pubs

There are approximately 41 Apollo-related books available for free download. A partial list is included below, and the full title list along with the URLs are in the spreadsheet, which is also hyperlinked.

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<td>Before this Decade is Out... Personal Reflections on the Apollo Program</td>
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<td><a href="https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4223/sp4223.htm">https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4223/sp4223.htm</a></td>
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History DMS

The History DMS is HQ Archives Document Management System, the repository where electronic records are housed. There is a large collection of Apollo 7–10 records available. The records include newsletters, change of shift briefings, speech transcripts, “Code A” Chronological Files from the Administrator’s office, new clippings, reports and correspondence. If there is an electronic document available, it is noted on the spreadsheet. Records in this collection may have copyright or privacy issues. NASA does not retain copyright release information. To request copies, please contact the HQ Archives, and provide the Record Number and the title of the material requested. An example of the spreadsheet is included below; it is also hyperlinked.
Oral History

NASA has an extensive collection of oral histories. While HQ Archives has a good number, Johnson Space Center has a far more rich collection. That list can be found here. To preserve the integrity of the audio record, the texts are presented with limited revisions and thus reflect the candid conversational style of the oral history format. NASA does not edit for content, and some words, ideas, or phrases, but brackets and ellipses indicate where the text has been annotated or edited for clarity, usually due to background noise.

In order to request transcript copies, please include the names of the Interviewee and the Interviewer, the date, and the DMS number. An example of the spreadsheet is included below; it is also hyperlinked.
Photos

NASA has thousands of photos, with multiple ways to search for them; it is impossible to capture all the locations. Also, HQ and many of the Centers have dedicated photo repositories, so researchers are often referred to staff at these locations.

To provide a starting point for researchers, this finding aid includes NASA on The Commons, the official NASA Flickr account. The specific Apollo albums are linked there, but many other photos are available by searching topically. For example, the “Astronauts” album contains images of the astronauts engaged in Apollo mission work. Other locations include the Human Spaceflight Galleries, taken from the NASA Public Affairs image collections, the Apollo Image Gallery, Apollo Video page, and the NASA Images and Video Gallery. While the names are similar, the URLs are different.

Also included is material from the Apollo Flight Journal and the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal. The Flight Journal series encompasses the Apollo missions not on the lunar surface. The Lunar Surface Journal, as indicated by its name, covers the surface missions. Both of these projects are run by volunteers; though the information is hosted by an official NASA Web site, all of the intellectual property remains with David Wood and his team of volunteers. An example of the spreadsheet is included below; it is also hyperlinked.

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Secondary Sources

These resources are not NASA-generated resources, but have been collected as large bodies of works in conjunction with NASA staff. While there are many excellent resources out there, HQ Archives has decided to include:

**Project Apollo Archives**: Kip Teague’s collection of raw, high-resolution photos, mostly from Johnson Space Center. Teague has broken the photos into Mission albums, and include more
than the Apollo 7–10 Missions that this finding aid concentrates on. There are 14,228 images in these albums.

**NARA’s Humans in Space Flight records:** There is no single collection of Apollo material at NARA. To best serve the Nation, NARA has 14 offices across the United States. NASA material may be found at many of them. To best understand the location breakdown of the records, please visit here: [https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/255.html](https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/255.html). Primary concentrations of records will be located at the regional offices that serve the areas in which NASA Centers are located. Please contact the regional office where the records are located.

**Apollo Flight Journal:** The journal covers 11 human flights that do not land on the lunar surface. It is an extensive site that includes documentation from all the missions. An example of the [spreadsheet](https://go.usa.gov/xPBZq) is included below; it is also hyperlinked.

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**Spreadsheet**

This spreadsheet seen in the previews above contain the descriptions of the records available at HQ Archives. While it does not contain the records themselves, it provides the information that our archivists require to facilitate access. The records may be viewed in the office by making an appointment, or be sent electronically. All records with electronic copies have been noted. The direct link for the spreadsheet is here: [https://go.usa.gov/xPBZq](https://go.usa.gov/xPBZq)

**Researching in the HQ Archives**

Researching in the HQ Archives is easy. Please contact the Archives at [hq-histinfo@nasa.gov](mailto:hq-histinfo@nasa.gov) to set up an appointment time. Further information about our processes, including that for foreign nationals, can be found at [https://history.nasa.gov/contact.html](https://history.nasa.gov/contact.html)
All of HQ Archives digitized content is available here: https://historydms.hq.nasa.gov
Records include, but are not limited to:

**Press Kits** are primarily from Shuttle missions but also included are Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Apollo Soyuz Test Project press kits. Additionally, there are press kits from International Space Station Expeditions and from the deployment of a variety of satellites and probes.

**Press Releases** include those distributed by Headquarters and the Centers over the years; however, over half of this series is comprised of HQ releases. Included also is an index, dated 1960–95, to HQ and Center press releases and speeches by officials-in-charge.

**Mission Transcripts** are from Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab missions, and Space Shuttle missions STS-1 through STS-5. Also included are Apollo Soyuz Test Project mission commentaries from U.S. and Soviet Mission Control facilities. There are air-to-ground transcripts, onboard transcripts, mission briefings and mission commentaries.

**Administrators’ Speeches** include remarks made by former NASA Administrators and Deputy Administrators since 1958. The speeches were made to a variety of audiences including NASA staff, and industry, educational and general audiences. Also included is congressional testimony. There are draft copies of speeches as well as final versions displayed here.

**Speeches of Key Officials** include remarks by Headquarters Associate Administrators and Center Directors as well as a number of program directors from 1958 forward.