

NASA HEADQUARTERS NACA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Alan Bernard Kehlet

ORAL HISTORY: 30 September 2005

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, 1951

M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1961

M.B.A in Business Administration, California State University, Domingues Hills, California (1976)

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

Junior Clerk, U.S. Naval Storage, Rockdale, Illinois (1945)

Helper/Contractor, Axel E. Kehlet, Joliet, Illinois (1946-1947)

Maintenance Helper, Ira E. Spencer, Joliet, Illinois (1948-1951)

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Hampton, Virginia

Aerodynamics Research Intern, Aircraft Configuration Section, General Aerodynamics Branch, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (1951)

Aerodynamic Research Scientist, Aircraft Configuration Branch, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (1952-1958)

NASA INVOLVEMENT:

Space Task Group, Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia

Head, Aerodynamics Group, Flight Systems Division (1958-1959)

Head, Aerodynamic Section, Performance Branch, Flight Systems Division (1959)

Assistant Chief, Flight Dynamics Branch, Flight Systems Division (1960)

Aerospace Technician (AST), Control and Guidance Systems, Flight Dynamics Branch, Flight Systems Division (1961-1962)

AST, Apollo Projects Office, Operations Division (1962)

Assistant for Flight Programs, Applied Materials and Physics Division, Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia (1962)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

North American Aviation, Inc./North American Rockwell/Rockwell International, Space Division, Downey, California

Technical Assistant to the Chief Engineer (1962)

Assistant Chief Project Manager (1963)

Project Manager, Block II Design (1964)

Chief Project Engineer (1965)

Assistant Program Manager, Apollo 11 (1967-1969)

Chief Program Engineer (1969-1973)
Sabreliner Division
Division Chief Engineer (1973-1979)
General Aviation Division
Executive Vice President (1979-1980)
Sabreliner Division
President (1980-1982)
Fairchild Aviation Division
President (1982-1983)
McDonnell Douglas Corporation, Astronautics Group
Vice President of Engineering and Operations (1984)
Vice President and G.M., Tomahawk Cruise Missiles (1984-1988)
Vice President, Delta Launch Vehicles (1988-1993)
Vice President and G.M., Advance Programs and Technology (1993-1996)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Citation for Contribution to Project Mercury, 1962
- North American Aviation Achievement Award, 1963
- NASA Certificate of Appreciation for Apollo 11 Accomplishments, 1969
- Who's Who in Aviation, 1973
- Distinguished Alumnus Award, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, University of Illinois, 1981
- Elected to Tau Beta Pi, Honorary Engineering Society, 1982
- Alumni Honors Award, College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1982
- Alumni Achievement Award, Joliet Junior College, 1986
- Outstanding Alumni, Junior Colleges of Illinois, 1988
- Elected to Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1995
- Elected to Fellow, Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, Inc., 1995
- 1995 Engineer of the Year, Orange County Engineering Council, 1995
- Distinguished Engineering Achievement Award, Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists, 1995

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS:

Kehlet, Alan B. "Aerodynamic characteristics at transonic and supersonic speeds of a rocket-propelled airplane configuration having a diamond-plan-form wing of aspect ratio 3.08 and a low, swept horizontal tail." NACA (CASI 19930088506). Hampton, VA: Langley Research Center, 1954.

Kehlet, Alan B. and Herbert G. Patterson. "Free-Flight Test of a Technique for Inflating an NASA 12-Foot-Diameter Sphere at High Altitudes." NASA-MEMO-2-5-59L (CASI 19980232004). Hampton, VA: Langley Research Center, 1959.

Bond, Aleck C. and Alan B. Kehlet. "Remarks on the Status of Project Mercury." In the Presentations before the Flight Mechanics Panel of the Advisory Group for the

- Aeronautical Research and Development North American Treaty Organization held in Istanbul, Turkey 3 October 1960. Unknown Publisher.
- Bond, A. C. and Alan B. Kehlet. "Review, Scope and Recent Results of Project Mercury Research and Development Program." In the Presentations at the IAS 28th Annual Meeting held in New York, New York 25-27 January 1960.
- Space and Atmospheric Re-entry Vehicle. A.B. Kehlet, D.F. Hasson, W.W. Petynia. 21 May 1963. Patent No. 3,090,580.
- Parachute Glider. A.B. Kehlet. 23 February 1965. Patent No. 3,170,660.
- Space Capsule. M.A. Faget, A.J. Meyer, R.G. Chilton, W.S. Blanchard, A.B. Kehlet, J.B. Hammack, and C.C. Johnson. 6 September 1966. Patent No. 3,270,908.
- Kehlet, Alan B. "Thermal Protection and Cross-Range problems During Earth Reentry for a Space Transportation System." No Report Number (CASI 19710061282). Downey, CA: North American Rockwell, 1971.
- Fuller, Paul N. and Alan B. Kehlet. "U.S. Government and Commercial Space Transportation." No Report Number (CASI 19920037974). Huntington Beach, CA: McDonnell Douglas Space Systems Co., Rockwell International Corp., 1991.
- Kehlet, Alan B., C.R. Carlson, R.P. Dawson. "Should-Cost Technologies." No Report Number (CASI 19920073007). Downey, CA: McDonnell Douglas Space Systems Co., 1992.

SOURCES:

Alan B. Kehlet Service Record Card, Alan B. Kehlet Personnel File, Human Resources Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Alan B. Kehlet. Interview by Loyd S. Swenson, Jr., and Ivan D. Ertal, 26 January 1970, Transcript, Apollo Program Office, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Alan Kehlet, "Space Shuttle: Thermal Protection and Cross Range Problems During Earth Reentry for a Space Transportation System," Paper presented at the 22nd International Astronautical Congress; Brussels, Belgium, 20-25 September 1971.

Paul N. Fuller and Alan Kehlet, "U. S. Government and Commercial Space Transportation," Paper presented at the 42nd Congress of the International Astronautical Federation; Montreal, Canada, 5-11 October 1991.