

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Frederick D. "Fred" Gregory

ORAL HISTORY: 29 April 2004
14 March 2005
18 April 2006

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S., United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, 1964
M.S.A. in Information Systems, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1977

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Air Force (1964-1993)

- Undergraduate Helicopter Training, Randolph Air Force Base, TX (1964-1965)
- Squadron Officer School (1965)
- Detachment 14, Central Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Team, Vance Air Force Base, OK (1965-1966)
- Helicopter pilot and rescue crew commander, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam (1966-1967)
- 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, MO (Dates Unknown)
- 3517th Student Squadron, Randolph Air Force Base (1968)
- 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, AZ (1969-1970)
- Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, MD (1970-1971)
- Research and engineering test pilot, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH (1971-1974)
- Research test pilot, Langley Research Center, VA (1974-1977)
- Armed Forces Staff College (1977)
- Detailed to NASA (1978-1993)
- Retired as Colonel (1993)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1978-1992)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1978-1992)

NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (1992-present)

- Associate Administrator, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (1992-2001)
- Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Space Flight (2001-2002)
- Associate Administrator, Office of Space Flight (2002-present)
- Nominated for NASA Deputy Administrator (2002)

MISSIONS:STS 51-B (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Robert F. Overmyer, Pilot Frederick D. Gregory, Mission Specialist 1 Don L. Lind, Mission Specialist 2 Norman E. Thagard, Mission Specialist 3 William E. Thornton, Payload Specialist 1 Lodewijk van den Berg, Payload Specialist 2 Taylor G. Wang
- Launched: 29 April 1985 at 12:02 P.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 7 days, 0 hours, 8 minutes, 46 seconds
- Landed: 6 May 1985 at 9:11 A.M. PDT, Edwards AFB, CA
- Mission Highlights: The mission focused on life sciences, materials science, fluid mechanics, atmospheric physics, and astronomy. Two GAS experiments and the Northern Utah Satellite, the Global Low Orbiting Message Relay Satellite, the Zero-Gravity/Fluid Experiment System, the Mercuric Iodide Growth/Vapor Crystal Growth System, the Mercury Iodide Crystal Growth, the Ames Research Center Life Sciences Payload, the Biotelemetry System, the Dynamic Environment Measurement System, the Autogenic Feedback Training, the Urine Monitoring System, the Dynamics of Rotating and Oscillating Free Drops/Drop Dynamics Module, the Atmospheric Trace Molecules Spectroscopy, the Geophysical Fluid Flow Cell Experiment, the Auroral Imaging Experiment, and the Studies of the Ionization of Solar and Galactic Cosmic Ray Heavy Nuclei were on board. The payload also included the Very Wide Field Camera.

STS-33 (*Discovery*)

- Crew: Commander Frederick D. Gregory, Pilot John E. Blaha, Mission Specialist 1 F. Story Musgrave, Mission Specialist 2 Manley L. Carter, Jr., Payload Specialist 1 Kathryn C. Thornton
- Launched: 22 November 1989 at 7:23 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 5 days, 0 hours, 6 minutes, 48 seconds
- Landed: 27 November 1989 at 4:30 P.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: STS-33 marked the first time that Gregory served as commander of a shuttle mission. It was a dedicated DoD mission that had been rescheduled from 20 November 1989 due to a problem with the integrated electronics assemblies on the SRBs. *Discovery's* night launch was the first since the return to flight after the *Challenger* Accident. The deployed payload was the Inertial Upper Stage IUS/Magnum stack satellite.

STS-44 (*Atlantis*)

- Crew: Commander Frederick D. Gregory, Pilot Terence T. Henricks, Mission Specialist 1 F. Story Musgrave, Mission Specialist 2 Mario Runco, Jr., Payload Specialist 1 Thomas J. Hennen
- Launched: 24 November 1991 at 6:44 P.M. EST from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 22 hours, 50 minutes, 44 seconds
- Landed: 1 December 1991 at 2:34 P.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California

- Mission Highlights: STS-44 was Gregory's second flight as commander and his last flight on a shuttle mission. The mission was a DoD and Defense Support Program (DSP) flight, and the unclassified payload was the DSP satellite attached to the Inertial Upper Stage (IUS). There were other payloads that were classified because of DoD restrictions. Experiments included on the mission were the Interim Operational Contamination Monitor (IOCM), Terra Scout, Military Man in Space (M88-1), the Air Force Maui Optical Site (AMOS), the Cosmic Radiation Effects and Activation Monitor (CREAM), the Shuttle Activation Monitor (SAM), the Radiation Monitoring Equipment III (RME III), the Visual Function Tester-1 (VFT-1), the Ultraviolet Plume Instrument (UVPI), and the Bioreactor Flow and Particle Trajectory experiment.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Honorary D.Sc., University of the District of Columbia (1977)
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Crosses
- Defense Meritorious Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Medals
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- NASA Space Flight Medal
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Award
- National Society of Black Engineers Distinguished National Scientist Award (1979)
- George Washington University Distinguished Alumni Award
- Air Force Association Ira Eaker Fellow

REFERENCES:

Martie Callaghan, "Time to Move on From the Ragged Edge," Inside Annapolis Magazine, Online, <http://www.annapolismag.com/JJ00/FGregory.html> (Last Updated n.d.; Accessed 18 June 2002).

Frederick D. Gregory NASA Biographical Data Sheet (2001), Johnson Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/gregory-fd.html>, (Last Updated January 2001; Accessed 3 May 2002).

David M. Harland, The Space Shuttle: Roles, Missions and Accomplishments (Chichester: Praxis Publishing, 1998).

Douglas B. Hawthorne, Men and Women of Space (San Diego: Univelt, 1992).

"High Profile: Frederick Gregory," 8 April 1990, General Reference, File Cabinet 3, Drawer 3, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Headquarters News Release, "Frederick D. Gregory, NASA Astronaut and Safety Manager, Named Acting Associate Administrator for Space Flight," HQ 01-241, 10 December 2001, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

NASA Headquarters Press Release, "NASA Administrator Announces Headquarters Appointments," HQ 92-54, 28 April 1992, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

NASA Headquarters Press Release, "NASA Administrator Names Gregory Associate Administrator for Space Flight," HQ 02-43, 4 March 2002, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

NASA Headquarters Press Release, "White House Moves to Fill NASA Deputy Administrator Position," HQ 02-85, 8 May 2002, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

"NASA HQ Organization," NASA Headquarters Homepage, Online, <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/hq/org.html> (Updated 17 June 2002; Last Accessed 1 July 2002).

"Space Shuttle Mission Chronology, STS-33," Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/chron/sts-33.htm> (Last Updated 10 May 2002; Accessed 19 June 2002).

"Space Shuttle Mission Chronology, STS-44" Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/chron/sts-44.htm> (Last Updated 26 September 2000; Accessed 19 June 2002).

"Space Shuttle Mission Chronology STS 51-B," Kennedy Space Center Homepage, Online, <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/chron/sts51-b.htm> (Last Updated 10 May 2002; Accessed 12 June 2002).

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