

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Joseph Francis Shea

ORAL HISTORY: 26 August 1998
23 November 1998

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Math, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1946
M.S. in Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1950
Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1955

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

United States Navy, V-12 NROTC Program, Commissioned in '46
Instructor, Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (1948-1950
& 1953-1955)
Bell Labs, Whippany NJ
Research Mathematician (1950-1953)
Military Development Engineer (1955-1959)
Director of Advanced Research and Development and Manager of Titan Inertial
Guidance Program, A.C. Spark Plug Division, General Motors, Milwaukee, WI (1959-
1961)
Program Director, Space Technology Laboratories, Thompson Ramo Woolridge (TRW),
Inc. (1961-1962)

NASA EXPERIENCE

Deputy Director Systems Engineering, Office of Manned Space Flight, NASA
Headquarters, Washington, DC (1962-1963)
Manager, Apollo Spacecraft Program, Manned Spacecraft Center (1963-1967)
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Manned Space Flight, NASA Headquarters,
Washington, DC (1967)
Member of at least two Technical Review Boards, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC
(1990's) – One reviewed the mission parameters of STS-61, the first servicing
mission of the Hubble Space Telescope (1993); the second reviewed the efforts to
redesign the International Space Station (1993).

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

Vice President, Polaroid Corporation, Waltham, MA (1967-1968)
Raytheon Company, Lexington, MA
General Manager, Equipment Division (1968-?)
Senior Vice President and Group Executive (1975-1981)
Senior Vice President of Engineering (1981-1990)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Adjunct Professor (1990-1995)

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Honorary Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- National Academy of Engineers
- Institute of Electrical Engineering
- National Academy of Science

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- AIAA Honorary Fellow, 1998

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Shea, Joseph F., A Study of Wind Forces on Suspended Cables and Related Structures, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1955.

Shea, Joseph F., Chairman, Committee on Advanced Space Technology, Space Technology to Meet Future Needs, Committee on Advanced Space Technology Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems, National Research Council, National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1987.

REFERENCES:

American Men & Women in Science 1989-90, 17th Edition, s.v. "Shea, Joseph F(rancis)".

Murray, Charles and Cox, Catherine Bly, Apollo: The Race to the Moon, (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1989), 120-123.

Seamans, Robert C., Jr. Aiming at Targets. (Washington, DC, The NASA History Office, 1996.), 263.

Joseph F. Shea, NASA Biographical Data Sheet, February 1967, Biographical Files, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

Who's Who in America. 43rd ed. Vol. 2. 1984-85, s.v. "Shea, Joseph Francis".

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