NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Karol J. Bobko

ORAL HISTORY: 12 February 2002

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Aeronautics, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, 1959

M.S. in Aerospace Engineering, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, 1970

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Colonel, United States Air Force (retired)

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

U.S. Air Force, Pilot (1959-1965)

- Pilot Training, Bartow Air Base, FL and Vance Air Force Base, OK (1959-1960)
- 523rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, NM (1961- Date Unknown)
- 336th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Seymore Johnson Air Force Base, NC (Date Unknown - 1965)

Air Force Astronaut (1966-Date Unknown)

- Aerospace Research Pilots School, Edwards Air Force Base, CA (1965-1966)
- Astronaut (Air Force), Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program (1966-1969)
- Detailed to NASA (1969)
- Retired as Colonel (Date Unknown)

NASA INVOLVEMENT:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/ Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1969-1988)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office/Director of Flight Crew Operations (1969-1985)
- Assistant to Director for Operations, Flight Crew Operations Directorate (1987-1988)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

- Principle, Space Systems Division, Booz Allen & Hamilton, Houston, TX (1988-Present)

MISSIONS:

STS-6 (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Paul J. Weitz, Pilot Karol J. Bobko, Mission Specialist Donald H. Peterson, Mission Specialist F. Story Musgrave
- Launched: 4 April 1983 at 13:30:00 EST from Cape Canaveral
- Duration: 5 days, 2 hours, 14 minutes, 25 seconds
- Landed: 9 April 1983 at 10:53:42 A.M. PST, Edwards AFB, California

- Mission Highlights: Primary payload was first Tracking and Data Relay Satellite-1 (TDRS-1). Malfunction of Inertial Upper Stage (IUS) booster resulted in placement of spacecraft into improper but stable orbit. Additional propellant aboard satellite used over next several months gradually placed TDRS-1 into properly circularized orbit. First space walk of Shuttle program performed by Peterson and Musgrave, lasting about 4 hours, 17 minutes. Other payloads: Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES), Monodisperse Latex Reactor (MLR), and Radiation Monitoring Experiment (RME). Night/Day Optical Survey of Lightning (NOSL), and three Get Away Special canisters. Mission used first lightweight external tank and lightweight rocket booster casings.

51-D (*Discovery*)

- Crew: Commander Karol J. Bobko, Pilot Donald E. Williams, Mission Specialist 1 M. Rhea Seddon, Mission Specialist 2 Jeffery A. Hoffman, Mission Specialist 3 S. David Griggs, Payload Specialist 1 Charles D. Walker, Payload Specialist 2 Sen. E. Jake Garn
- Launched: 12 April 1985 at 08:59:05 EST from Cape Canaveral
- Duration: 5 days, 2 hours, 14 minutes, 25 seconds
- Landed: 19 April 1985 at 08:54:28 A.M. EST, Runway 33, Cape Kennedy, Florida
- Mission Highlights: TELESAT-l (ANIK C-1) communications satellite deployed, attached to Payload Assist Module (PAM-D) motor. SYNCOM IV-3 (also known as LEASAT-3) deployed, but spacecraft sequencer failed to initiate antenna deployment, spin up and ignition of perigee kick motor. Mission extended two days to make certain sequencer start lever in proper position. Griggs and Hoffman performed space walk to attach Flyswatter devices to remote manipulator system. Seddon engaged LEASAT lever using remote manipulator system but post deployment sequence did not begin. Other payloads: Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES) III, flying for sixth time; two Shuttle Student Involvement Program (SSIP) experiments; American Flight Echocardiograph (AFE); two Get Away Specials; Phase Partitioning Experiments (PPE); astronomy Photography verification test; medical experiments and toys in space, an informal study of the behavior of simple toys in weightless environment, with results to be made available to school students.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Legion of Merit
- Meritorious Service Medal, 1970, 1979
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1972
- JSC Group Achievement Awards, 2 in 1972, 1977
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal, 1978
- Air Force Academy Jabara Award, 1983
- Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, 1983
- Defense Superior Service Medal, 1985
- NASA Flight Medal, 1983 and two in 1985

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS:

Bobko, K. J., R. L. Crippen, and W. E. Thornton. "Crew Report; Skylab Medical Experiments Altitude Test (SMEAD)." NASA-TM-X-58115 (CASI 19740003767). Houston, TX: Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1973.

SOURCES:

Karol J. Bobko NASA Biographical Data Sheet (May 1999), Karol J. Bobko Biographical File, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Karol J. Bobko NASA Biographical Data Sheet (April 1979), Karol J. Bobko Biographical File, Public Affairs Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Booz Allen and Hamilton Incorporated, "Looking to the Heavens," Booz Allen and Hamilton Homepage, Online, http://www.bah.com/bahng/SilverDemo?dispType=HTML&PID=Home.html&NGPgID=HOME (Last Updated 2 November 2001; Accessed 8 November 2001).

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