



AN AFTERNOON WITH
General
THOMAS P. STAFFORD

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH, 2019
2:00 P.M.

Weatherford High School Performing Arts Center
1500 N Washington, Weatherford OK


Stafford
AIR & SPACE
MUSEUM

APOLLO 10

Sorting Out the Final Unknowns

Apollo 10 would be just the second manned mission to the moon, and the first to test the entire suite of hardware in lunar orbit necessary to make a lunar landing. Launched on May 18th, 1969 (50 years ago tonight), the giant 36-story tall Saturn V rocket carried the crew of Commander Tom Stafford, Lunar Module Pilot Gene Cernan, and Command Module Pilot John Young the quarter of a million miles to the moon. The mission was to fly the last full-scale dress rehearsal for a lunar landing.

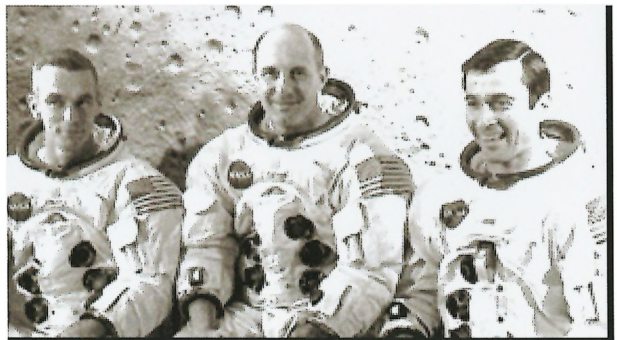
During the eight-day mission, the crew checked out every phase of how to finally attempt to place humans on the moon. They checked out thousands of precise procedures and calculations, mapped future landing sites, perfected navigation and communication systems, rendezvous and docking techniques, and made a final test of literally millions of parts and pieces of hardware that had to work to safely carry mankind to the surface of the moon.

Stafford and Cernan would fly the first Lunar Module (LM) spacecraft into lunar orbit, a critical test of the large, but fragile, spider-looking machine known as the Lunar Module. Given the call sign of “Snoopy,” Stafford and Cernan would undock their LM from the Command Module mothership, appropriately named “Charlie Brown, leaving John Young behind in lunar orbit. “Snoopy” would be flown down to within 47,400 feet of the lunar surface on the exact trajectory to be used for a landing.

Originally, it was thought the Apollo 10 crew would make the first landing attempt, but “Snoopy” was still too heavy, and that final nine miles to the surface had to wait for the Apollo 11 crew of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to attempt in their weight reduced LM.

After several hair-raising seconds when Snoopy went totally out of control, tumbling in all three axis at the rate of nearly one rotation a second, Stafford and Cernan rejoined their crew mate Young awaiting them in Charlie Brown for the trip home. During re-entry, Stafford’s crew slammed back into the atmosphere at 24,791 mph (nearly 7 miles per second) establishing the fastest speed any humans have ever achieved. Even after 50 years, the Apollo 10 crew still holds this ultimate speed record that may never be broken!

Because of the success of Apollo 10, the door was finally open to attempt a lunar landing that would occur just two months later on Apollo 11.



Gene Cernan, LM Pilot; Tom Stafford, Commander, and John Young, CM Pilot



THOMAS P. STAFFORD

BORN: Weatherford, OK – September 17, 1930

MILITARY: Lt. General, U.S. Air Force Fighter Pilot & Test Pilot

EDUCATION: B.S. in Engineering, U.S. Naval Academy

NASA CAREER: Selected as a member of the second class of NASA astronauts, September, 1962; Gemini VI: Pilot – the mission performed the first rendezvous in space with another orbiting spacecraft; Gemini IX: Commander Apollo 10: Commander – Last dress rehearsal for before a lunar Landing; first to fly Lunar Module in lunar orbit; set the all time human speed record of 24,791 mph on reentry.

Chief of the Astronaut Office

Apollo-Soyuz: Commander; first international space flight

FLIGHT TIME: Flown more than 127 different aircraft & helicopters, and graduated first in his test pilot class; flown four different types of spacecraft, on three different types of rockets; Logged 508 hrs., and conducted six rendezvous in space. Became the first astronaut to become a General, and the first General to fly in space.

NASA RETIREMENT: November 1975

POST-NASA CAREER: Commander, USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, CA.; Commander “Area 51;” Led the push to develop stealth technology, including the F-117A and B-2 bomber; Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Force Research & Development at the Pentagon; Co-founded Stafford, Burke & Hecker Consulting; Served as a board member to numerous “Fortune 500” corporations; Chaired numerous NASA oversight committees & consultant for many NASA programs; Author: “We Have Capture;”

Recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



“I am very proud to have contributed to our nation’s future in space, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the beginning of America’s venture into the new and endless frontier.”

– Tom Stafford



MARK LARSON

Our Master of Ceremonies this afternoon is Mr. Mark Larson, a well-known national and Californian radio and TV personality from San Diego during the past four decades. Each week, his Southern California talk show is heard by millions of people on a variety of programs via hundreds of radio, TV and digital platforms worldwide. On television, he is often seen on FOX News Network, and KUSI (Channel 9) in San Diego.



Known for traveling the world to gain insight on important news events, he's covered the Iraq War on location in the Middle East, smuggled Bibles to the underground church in Southeast Asia, and has done ground-breaking broadcasts from war zones including the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan.

He is an avid pilot, and his love of aviation and space has led him to many great friendships with well-known pilots and astronauts. He is a member of the San Diego Air & Space Museum Board of Directors, now serving his eighth term as Chairman. He has emceed many major national events, including numerous astronaut gatherings and other aerospace events.

We welcome Mark to "An Afternoon with General Thomas P Stafford."

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

TROOP 355

Scout Master Trevor Ellis; Scout Members: Matthew Armstrong, Logan Bond, Aidan Ellis, Carson Falasco, Walker Carman, Issac Martyn and David Flynn

NATIONAL ANTHEM

LANDRI DELL JONES

WELCOME

JEFF DEFЕHR, SASM BOARD PRESIDENT

INTRODUCTION

MAX ARY, SASM DIRECTOR

PROGRAM

GENERAL THOMAS P. STAFFORD

MASTER OF CEREMONY

MARK LARSON