

MISSION FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Apollo 13 was to be NASA's third mission to land on the Moon. The spacecraft launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Midway to the moon, an explosion in one of the oxygen tanks of the service module crippled the spacecraft. After the in-flight emergency, for safety reasons, the crew was forced to temporarily power down and evacuate the command module, taking refuge in the lunar module. The spacecraft then orbited the Moon without landing. Later in the flight, heading back toward Earth, the crew returned to the command module, restored power, jettisoned the damaged service module, then the lunar module and, after an anxious re-entry blackout period, returned safely to the Earth. The command module and its crew splashed down in the South Pacific Ocean and were recovered by the U.S.S. Iwo Jima (LPH-2).

FACTS

- Apollo XIII Mission Motto: Ex Luna, Scientia
- Lunar Module: Aquarius
- Command and Service Module: Odyssey
- Crew:
 - James A. Lovell, Jr. - Commander
 - John L. Swigert, Jr. - Command Module Pilot (*)
 - Fred W. Haise, Jr. - Lunar Module Pilot
- NASA Flight Directors
 - Milt Windler - Flight Director Shift #1
 - Gerald Griffin - Flight Director Shift #2
 - Gene Kranz - Flight Director Shift #3
 - Glynn Lunney - Flight Director Shift #4
 - William Reeves - Systems
- Launch Site: John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- Launch Complex: Pad 39A
- Launch: 2:13 pm EST, April 11, 1970
- Orbit:
 - Altitude: 118.99 miles
 - Inclination 32.547 degrees
 - Earth orbits: 1.5
- Lunar Landing Site: Intended to be Fra Mauro (later became landing site for Apollo 14)
- Return to Earth: April 17, 1970
 - Splashdown: 18:07:41 UTC (1:07:41 pm EST)
 - Recovery site location: South Pacific Ocean (near Samoa) S21 38.6 W165 21.7
- Recovery ship: U.S.S. Iwo Jima (LPH-2)
- Mission Duration: 5 Days, 22 Hours, 54 Minutes and 41 Seconds
- Total Distance Travelled: 622,268 Miles

HIGHLIGHTS

- First aborted Apollo Mission
- The lunar module was used to provide emergency propulsion and life support after the loss of the service module systems.
- First impact of the S-IVB / IU on the lunar surface. Normally it burns up in the Earth's atmosphere.
- (*) Command Module pilot Thomas K. Mattingly was removed from the mission 72 hours prior to scheduled launch due to presumed exposure to German measles. He was replaced with John L. Swigert, Jr. Mattingly later flew on Apollo 16.

MISSION RELATED QUOTES

QUOTES:

- "Houston, we've had a problem."
- "We have a wicked shimmy up here."
- "OK. Let's stay cool, people."
- "Houston, we're venting something into space."
- "Roger, Odyssey. We copy. You're venting."
- "Anything is possible."
- "Failure is not an option."
- "I suggest you gentlemen find a way to fit a round peg into a square hole."
- "With all due respect, sir, I believe this will be our finest hour."
- "Divine inspiration."
- "Let's go home."
- "A successful failure."
- "Aquarius, we thank you."
- "Gentlemen, it's been a privilege flying with you."
- "Houston, this is Odyssey. It's good to see you again."
- "Odyssey, Houston. Welcome Home!"
- "The astronaut is only the most visible member of a very large team."

END