

Biographical Data

Dr. Jay Apt

PERSONAL DATA: Born April 28, 1949, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He enjoys flying, scuba diving, camping, photography, model rocketry, and amateur radio.

EDUCATION: Received a bachelor of arts degree in physics (magna cum laude) from Harvard College in 1971, and a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1976.

ORGANIZATIONS: Member of the American Astronomical Society (Division of Planetary Science), the American Geophysical Union, the American Physical Society, International Association of Energy Economists, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association of Space Explorers and the National Association of Rocketry. He is a Fellow of The American Association for the Advancement of Science and of The Explorers Club.

SPECIAL HONORS: Recipient of NASA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal; two NASA Exceptional Service Medals, four NASA Space Flight Medals, the Sergei P. Korolev Diploma of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), two Komarov Diplomas of the FAI, the FAI's De La Vaulx Medal, and four NASA Group Achievement Awards. American Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Award (1992 and 1997). Winner of First and Second Prizes in the 1996 Aviation Week & Space Technology Magazine Space Photography Contest. In 2000, awarded the David L. Lawrence award of Vectors Pittsburgh, given to an individual who "has exemplified the pride, spirit, and excellence that exists in our city and who brings greater state and national recognition to Pittsburgh." 2002 winner of the Metcalf Lifetime Achievement Award for significant contributions to engineering. Elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



PUBLICATIONS: Dr. Apt shared his images and knowledge of Earth in the 224-page book *Orbit: NASA Astronauts Photograph the Earth*, written in conjunction with NASA scientists Michael Helfert and Justin Wilkinson and published by the National Geographic Society. Over 600,000 copies of *Orbit* have been sold in 11 languages. *Orbit* was selected to receive *Scientific American's* Young Readers Book Award. Results of Dr. Apt's research in physics and planetary science have been published in over 120 papers in professional journals.

EXPERIENCE: In 1976, Dr. Apt was a post-doctoral fellow in laser spectroscopy at MIT. From 1976 to 1980 he was a staff member of the Center for Earth & Planetary Physics, Harvard University, supporting NASA's Pioneer Venus Mission by making temperature maps of Venus from Mt. Hopkins Observatory. Dr. Apt served as the Assistant Director of Harvard's Division of Applied Sciences from 1978 to 1980.

NASA EXPERIENCE: In 1980 Dr. Apt joined the Earth and Space Sciences Division of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), doing planetary research, studying Venus, Mars, and the outer solar system. In 1981 he became Director of JPL's Table Mountain Observatory. From 1982 through 1985, he was a flight controller responsible for Shuttle payload operations at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Dr. Apt is an instrument-rated commercial pilot, and has logged 7,000 hours flying time in approximately 25 different types of airplanes, seaplanes, sailplanes, and human-powered aircraft. He has flown single-engine aircraft to Greenland, Iceland, Europe, Alaska, and Central America. He currently flies a Beechcraft.

He was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in June 1985, and qualified as an astronaut in July 1986. His assignments included Shuttle Orbiter modification support at Kennedy Space Center, developing techniques for servicing the Hubble Space Telescope and the Gamma Ray Observatory, development of EVA (space walk) construction and maintenance techniques for Space Station, as a spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) for Shuttle flights, the voice link between the flight crew and the

Mission Control Center (MCC), and the Astronaut Office EVA point of contact. He has also been the supervisor of Astronaut Training in the Astronaut Office, and has served as Chief of the Astronaut Office Mission Support Branch.

Apt flew as a member of the crew of the space Shuttle *Atlantis* on the STS-37 mission, which launched from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on April 5, 1991. During the mission, the crew deployed the Gamma Ray Observatory to study the universe by observing the most energetic form of radiation. Apt and crew mate Jerry Ross performed an unscheduled space walk during which they manually deployed the observatory's large radio antenna when remotely controlled motors failed to do so. On the next day, they conducted the first scheduled space walk in 5-1/2 years. They tested concepts for getting around on large space structures, and gathered basic engineering data on the forces a crew member can exert on bolts and equipment. The crew also conducted research on biologically important molecules, tested concepts for radiating heat from Space Station, operated an amateur radio station, and took over 4000 photographs of the Earth. After completing 93 orbits of the Earth, the crew landed *Atlantis* at Edwards Air Force Base, California, on April 11, 1991.

Dr. Apt was *Endeavour*'s flight engineer on the crew of STS-47, Spacelab-J. This eight-day cooperative mission between the United States and Japan was launched on September 12, 1992, to perform life science and materials processing experiments in space. Dr. Apt was responsible for operating the Orbiter during one of the two shifts on this dual shift mission. After completing 126 orbits of the Earth, the crew landed *Endeavour* at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on September 20, 1992.

He flew again aboard *Endeavour* on STS-59, the first flight of the Space Radar Laboratory, from April 9-20, 1994. As the blue shift commander, he was responsible for operating *Endeavour* during one of the two shifts on an 11-day mission to observe the land and oceans of Earth with three imaging radar systems, and to map the global distribution of carbon monoxide in the lower atmosphere. The crew flew *Endeavour* through the largest series of maneuvers in Shuttle history to point the radar precisely at hundreds of ecology, geology, and oceanography sites, providing research scientists the equivalent of 26,000 encyclopedia volumes of data. Real-time crew observations of surface phenomena and climatic conditions augmented with over 14,000 photographs aided investigators in interpretation and calibration of the data. After completing 183 orbits of the Earth, the crew landed *Endeavour* at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Most recently, he served aboard *Atlantis* during mission STS-79, September 16-26, 1996. The crew docked *Atlantis* with the Russian *Mir* space station, having ferried supplies, personnel, and scientific equipment to this base 240 miles above the Earth. The crew transferred over 4 tons of scientific experiments and supplies to and from the *Mir* station and exchanged U.S. astronauts on *Mir* for the first time - leaving John Blaha and bringing Shannon Lucid home after her record six months stay aboard *Mir*. This historic mission of international cooperation and scientific research ended at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, after 160 orbits of the Earth.

With the completion of his fourth flight, Dr. Apt logged over 847 hours (35 days) in space, including 10 hours and 49 minutes on two space walks. He has flown around the Earth 562 times, traveling a distance equal to 30 round trips to the Moon, or nearly half the distance to Mars.

After 21 years in the space exploration program, Dr. Apt left NASA in May 1997 to become the Director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He conceived and executed a turn-around of the museum's public programs, reversing a decade-long decline in attendance, re-energizing scientific research, and tripling the funds raised by the museum. The leader of Vectors Pittsburgh stated that "Under Dr. Apt's leadership, Carnegie Museum of Natural History has transformed itself into one of the finest museums in the world. The extensive changes have excited the general public and made Carnegie Museum of Natural History one of Pittsburgh's premier attractions." The museum was named "best museum in Pittsburgh" in 1999. In 2000, Dr. Apt became Managing Director and Chief Technology Officer of an early-stage venture capital firm.

In 2003, he joined Carnegie Mellon University, where his research and teaching earned him tenure as a full Professor at the Tepper School of Business and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy. He was the Director of the Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center and has authored more than 120 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals. In 2022 he became an *emeritus* professor.