

SSUNS 2016 Apollo 13 Position Paper

Committee: (Crisis) Apollo 13

Character: Edgar Cortright – NASA Langley Research Center Director

Please note that I was unable to find clear topics so I made my own according to the provided background guide

Topic One: Decent into Space

The concern of the each member of the Apollo 13 crew and NASA staff are crucial to the successful execution of Apollo 13. NASA believes in this mission to be the future of science in space and will answer questions scientists have had for years.

I believe that first of all, I have a better understanding of this mission before it begins than the rest of the crew because I am the Langley Research Centre Director and research embodies science. I am willing to present my ideas to the Apollo 13 crew that will make this mission the best it can be. For example, I believe that we should over prepare for this mission than simply support the crew for the 10 day mission such as; strengthening the heat shield, carry enough oxygen for a 14-day mission, and fill the Command Module with lithium hydroxide scrubbers to support carbon dioxide for 14 days, the scrubbers should be prismatic, as triangles are the strongest shape as they evenly distribute any force upon them evenly¹. I do believe that my colleagues will be agreeable to a mutual understanding before the issue(s) become drastic.

Secondly, NASA is directly responsible for the lives of its employees and intends to keep it as safe as possible. Of course many companies have had accidents before where, sadly, workers may be seriously injured or die. NASA is not the first company to have these accidents and unfortunately reoccurring ones. Parachute failure, decompression, and vehicle disintegration to name a few. Apollo 13 will be one of our biggest and most important missions yet, let us keep it as safe as possible to avoid more injury².

Topic Two: Return to Earth

I've always known what I've wanted to be since I was just a little boy. My father served as a lieutenant for the United States during World War II and is my constant source of inspiration³. For my entire life I've dreamed of such a mission as the Apollo 13 and I will do everything in my power to ensure it is executed at its highest level of potential. By over

¹ (Myth Busters Stable Structures N/A)

² (List of spaceflight-related accidents and incidents 2016)

³ (Former Langley Center Director Edgar Cortright Dies 2014)

supplying the ships we do increase the weight on board however we can always revise the modules to support this mission and increase the chances of our brave astronauts coming home.

As much as we can prepare for the mission we cannot prepare for the loss of one of our men or women aboard the ship and this mission and we will succeed in this mission not only for science but for our brave astronauts and I believe it is crucial we prepare for the mission as if it were 14 days instead of 10. I also believe that if we do this it will raise our chances of survival and successful completion of the mission by 40%.

To ensure safety of our crew we must also have greater security at NASA. Personal codes to each faculty member with limits to what they can access, 24/7 monitoring and security valence cameras. I will see to it that no more lives or data is at stake at NASA.

Works Cited

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