Crisis: Apollo 13

Jack Swigert: Position Paper

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The Apollo missions have been some of the most successful space explorations mission’s mankind has ever seen. Apollo 11 brought the first man to the moon and we now continue to use these same Apollo space probes for further exploration of the moon. Congress’ investment in the Apollo space program had helped NASA create the most advanced space program in the world.

The Apollo missions 11-13 all use similar equipment and share similar goals that all involve moon landings, with this missions goal being the exploration of the Fra Mauro formation. This means that the equipment has been tested but more importantly that my fellow crew mattes have all had training with our equipment for long periods of time.

So far in this crisis I, Jack Swigger, have replaced the original command module pilot, Ken Mattingly, due to health concerns and am now going to be the official command module pilot in the Apollo 13 mission. I have done extensive training and am the most travelled astronaut in the world. I have flown 3 previous missions and have spent 572 hours in space. I am well aware of the systems and controls in the Odyssey and Aquarius and have used many of the same systems and design’s before in previous missions.

The apollo 13 spacecraft uses many parts from Apollo 11 and 12, while some are the exact same and some have been redesigned slightly. The Saturn V rocket being used has been previously used other missions and seems to be one of the most reliable rockets ever made. While NASA is always upgrading parts such as the navigational and guidance system’s

As the command module pilot I will work will Commander James A. Lovell Jr and Lunar Module Pilot Fred W. Haise Jr to quickly fix any issues and my primary goal is to ensure a successful mission and return back to earth. In this crisis we already know about a problem with either our O2 tank or with the gauges measuring it and fixing this issue will be my first concern during this crisis.

I have been briefed as to some possible issues we may face regarding some recent changes to certain systems, such as the new “smaller” O2 tank which uses a miniaturized version of the one previously used on Apollo 11/12. I have extensive knowledge of NASA’s technology and while I know about the contraction and functions of many parts of this spacecraft I am somewhat worried about the changes they have made for this mission. In addition I am worried about the hastiness in which the spacecraft was designed.

"Apollo 13 (AS-508)." National Air and Space Museum |. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Nov. 2016. <https://airandspace.si.edu/explore-and-learn/topics/apollo/apollo-program/landing-missions/apollo13.cfm>

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