Lucia Morice

Milton Windler

American Nicaraguan School

Apollo 13

The Space Race was a rough and competitive period. A battle between the two great powers of the world at that time, the USSR and the United States. Many important events marked this era as one that is full of competitive change, for the better or worse of the nation. Some events like JFK’s Moon speech, in 1961, or the successful mission of Apollo 11, 1969, were key in making this era so eventful for the American people. Even though there were many moments to be proud of, the harsh competition was still very noticeable. The need to surpass each other was evident in both the American and the Soviets. With the initiation of the late 1950’s, space became yet another monstrous arena for the rivalry between these two groups[[1]](#footnote-0). With the introduction of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 by Dwight D. Eisenhower, a monumental organization called NASA was created[[2]](#footnote-1). The introduction of the Apollo Space Program came soon after in 1961. During this era there were lots of obstacles, some of them involving complete panic and fast thinking, one of them being Apollo 13.

Apollo 13, the seventh manned mission for the American Apollo Space program was launched on April 11, 1970[[3]](#footnote-2). This mission was commanded by James A. Lovell, accompanied by John L. Swigert as Command Module Pilot and Fred W. Haise as Lunar Module Pilot. It had the objective of exploring the Fra Mauro formation, named after the Fra Mauro crater and placing a package of five experiments on the lunar surface [[4]](#footnote-3). Many people know the main problems regarding the module. But what most don't know is the various set of circumstances that led to the catastrophe. Several minor flaws were discovered during the testing of oxygen tank 2. However, no anomalies were reported on oxygen tank 2, therefore no repair was performed on the oxygen tank. The lack of communication between the engineers was evident and was deemed to take a negative effect on the whole team, especially those individuals inside the spacecraft whose lives were at stake.

During this crisis committee we will be taking on the rigorous task to solve this lunar expedition. Most of the obstacles that we will be facing will be regarding the failure in the oxygen tanks, but most importantly they will center on getting the brave Astronauts home. In this committee we will face the task of not only fixing technical and mechanical problems, but also ethical and communication problems. We will pull together our problem solving skills and individual strengths to solve the barriers that are thrown our way.

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