



2

REACTOR NO. 1
LATCH KEY
Panel Unit Side

REACTOR NO. 2
LATCH KEY
Panel Unit Side

1

00:00:00,350 --> 00:00:04,230

President John F. Kennedy: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving a

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00:00:04,230 --> 00:00:09,180

goal before this decade is out of landing a man on the Moon

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00:00:09,180 --> 00:00:12,180

and returning him safely to the Earth."

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00:00:12,180 --> 00:00:16,680

Gary Morse Narrator: In 1966, the Merritt Island Tracking Station, also known as MILA

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00:00:16,680 --> 00:00:20,540

opened its gates at the Kennedy Space Center to meet the needs of

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00:00:20,540 --> 00:00:23,630

NASA's Human Space Flight Program.

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00:00:23,630 --> 00:00:30,220

George Jenkins: "The station has served many, many roles; thereafter, Apollo, Sky lab,

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00:00:30,220 --> 00:00:34,930

Apollo Soyuz, Shuttle, and many, many unmanned missions."

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00:00:34,930 --> 00:00:46,610

"This picture is the MILA Tracking Station tracking Apollo 8 on the way to the moon.

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00:00:46,610 --> 00:00:48,950

Greg Mitchell: "No, NASA cannot launch without MILA

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00:00:48,950 --> 00:00:51,360

because we are the only uplink."

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00:00:51,360 --> 00:00:55,020

George Jenkins: "All those functions of voice, command, telemetry,

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00:00:55,020 --> 00:00:58,520

and metric position of where the vehicle is are provided here."

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00:00:58,520 --> 00:01:05,190

Sonja Ashworth: "MILA supports the shuttle by up-linking commands and voice

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00:01:05,190 --> 00:01:09,910

communications. We have to maintain good data communications and voice

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00:01:09,910 --> 00:01:15,980

communications during the first 7.5 minutes of launch."

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00:01:15,980 --> 00:01:21,220

Gary Morse: "MILA has always supported the Space Shuttle program since STS-1,

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00:01:21,220 --> 00:01:29,130

the first launch, back on April 12, 1981 and has continued, for the past 30 years,

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00:01:29,130 --> 00:01:30,990

supporting every mission."

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00:01:30,990 --> 00:01:40,420

Jim Stefanov: "STS-1 was the first launch and they asked for volunteers to fill positions.

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00:01:40,420 --> 00:01:46,580

At that time I was a Servo Tech., which means I got to drive the antennas."

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00:01:46,580 --> 00:01:53,800

"We tested like crazy for this launch. We were two weeks on 12-hour

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00:01:53,800 --> 00:01:58,000

shifts prior to launch. I believe a week or two weeks.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,080

We went over, and over, and over, and over."

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00:02:02,080 --> 00:02:06,910

Gary Morse Narrator: But just as interesting and intense as launch is there also moments

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00:02:06,910 --> 00:02:10,890

that help break the tension.

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00:02:10,890 --> 00:02:14,230

Martyn Thomas: "One of the interesting facets of being here at MILA is that we are part

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00:02:14,230 --> 00:02:20,160

of the Merritt Island Wildlife Reserve, which is a preservation of all the wildlife put in

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00:02:20,160 --> 00:02:24,830

place by the Kennedy Space Center. And, it's very extensive, when you come in here

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00:02:24,830 --> 00:02:29,350

there is a warning sign that's just inside the main gate that says, know your snakes and

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00:02:29,350 --> 00:02:31,190

avoid them."

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00:02:31,190 --> 00:02:35,810

Greg Mitchell: "We had a seven-foot rattle snake slide up against the side of the building,

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00:02:35,810 --> 00:02:39,160

so of course they make the announcement that there is a rattlesnake outside the building

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00:02:39,160 --> 00:02:42,400

and everybody needs to stay indoors. So, what does everybody on swing shift do?

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00:02:42,400 --> 00:02:47,360

We all run outside because we all wanna take a look at the rattle snake."

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00:02:47,360 --> 00:02:52,680

Don Childs: "I try to have fun, but we're serious doing what we doing and we enjoy what

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00:02:52,680 --> 00:03:01,010

we do. I enjoy working with people and just having fun with people while we work.

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00:03:01,010 --> 00:03:05,810

We accomplish a lot that way."

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00:03:05,810 --> 00:03:10,580

George Jenkins: "We put a station up 40 miles to the North at New Smyrna Beach on

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00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:18,100

Coast Guard property there. It has been a Godsend because we were plumed to death in

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00:03:18,100 --> 00:03:23,530

the second minute of flight on Space Shuttle. First minute we were in the clear here at

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00:03:23,530 --> 00:03:26,910

MILA, the second minute, we were out of business."

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00:03:26,910 --> 00:03:32,150

Barbara Guy: "So, One minute in, we hand up to PDL because the plume I was telling

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00:03:32,150 --> 00:03:37,540

you about with TDRS also affects the MILA line of sight. So, we have PDL,

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00:03:37,540 --> 00:03:43,190

the Ponce de Leon mini station, MILA mini, and they pick it up.

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00:03:43,190 --> 00:03:49,190

So, we stay with them for 90 seconds and then we hand back to MILA at 2+ 30 seconds.

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00:03:49,190 --> 00:03:58,260

And then we take it through until the 7+ 30 seconds and TDRS takes over."

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00:03:58,260 --> 00:04:01,970

Martyn Thomas: "It's a bittersweet moment. We're coming to the end of a mission.

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00:04:01,970 --> 00:04:06,740

MILA has been extraordinarily successful. We've never held a mission and we've

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00:04:06,740 --> 00:04:10,620

always been ready to support. And, we recognize this is the last shuttle mission."

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00:04:10,620 --> 00:04:17,060

Roscoe Johnson: "MILA is always 'go'. Power plant is green for support."

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00:04:17,060 --> 00:04:20,470

Don Childs: "'Always go' and that's what I announce, 'always go'."

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00:04:20,470 --> 00:04:22,650

Don Childs on console: "MILA status is go."

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00:04:22,650 --> 00:04:24,360

"I copy that MILA."

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00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:26,210

Barbara Guy: "Favorite thing about my job are green lights."

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00:04:26,210 --> 00:04:33,320

When the lights are solid green and the data is 100%, then it's a good day at work."

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00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:34,950

Greg Mitchell: "We have always been 'go'."

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00:04:34,950 --> 00:04:37,490

Sonja Ashworth: "When it comes to the call to all stations,

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00:04:37,490 --> 00:04:41,180

we have always been green and go."

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00:04:41,180 --> 00:04:42,340

T-10

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00:04:42,340 --> 00:04:43,010

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00:04:43,010 --> 00:04:43,760

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00:04:43,760 --> 00:04:44,690

7

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00:04:44,690 --> 00:04:45,700

6

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00:04:45,700 --> 00:04:46,470

(Roar of engines igniting)

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00:04:46,470 --> 00:04:47,250

5

67

00:04:47,250 --> 00:04:49,880

All three engines up and burning.

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00:04:49,880 --> 00:04:51,130

Two

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00:04:51,130 --> 00:04:51,780

One

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00:04:51,780 --> 00:04:54,020

zero and liftoff!

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00:04:54,020 --> 00:04:58,110

The final liftoff of Atlantis. On the shoulders of the space shuttle,

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00:04:58,110 --> 00:05:01,810

America will continue the dream.

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00:05:01,810 --> 00:05:03,550

Commander Chris Ferguson: Roll program, Houston.

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00:05:03,550 --> 00:05:08,020

Gary Morse: Well MILA supports the shuttle for the entire mission, which very often

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00:05:08,020 --> 00:05:15,780

runs 12-14 days? so with landing phase includes a pilot's point of view video that the

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00:05:15,780 --> 00:05:21,760

commander was looking out his window and sees the runway? and that's what you can

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00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:25,690

see during the landing phase that comes right through MILA.

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00:05:25,690 --> 00:05:27,950

Roscoe Johnson Tape: "It was the greatest thing that ever came down the pike as far as

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00:05:27,950 --> 00:05:32,950

I'm concerned. I know the first one I remember well and I'll certainly remember the last

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00:05:32,950 --> 00:05:37,680

one well. But it's just another end of an era, just like the Apollo program.

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00:05:37,680 --> 00:05:45,860

It's done its job, it comes to an end, and you go on to newer things."

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00:05:45,860 --> 00:05:50,300

Gary Morse Narrator: After 45 years of continued support to NASA's human space flight

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00:05:50,300 --> 00:05:57,290

programs, the Merritt Island Launch Complex has completed its mission.

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00:05:57,290 --> 00:05:59,510

Commander Chris Ferguson: Houston, air-to-ground-two, we have you loud and clear

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00:05:59,510 --> 00:06:03,680

through MILA. Hey while we have you through MILA, we just want to give a shout out