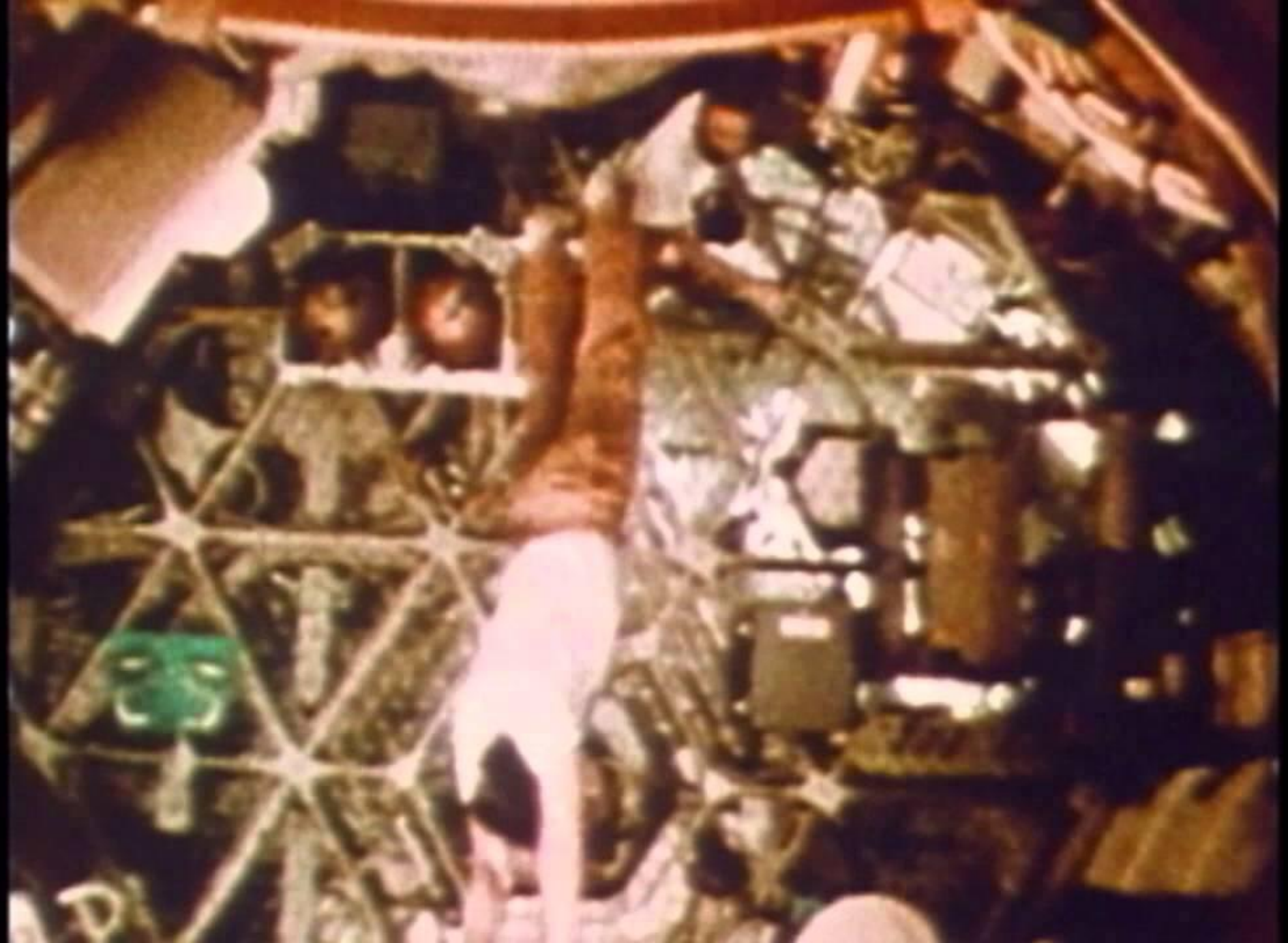

1
00:00:00,650 --> 00:00:06,680
Voice of John F. Kennedy: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal before this

2
00:00:06,680 --> 00:00:13,810
decade is out of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth. No single space project

3
00:00:13,810 --> 00:00:23,860
in the period will be more impressive to mankind or more important for the long range exploration of space."

4
00:00:23,860 --> 00:00:31,080
It began with those words from Kennedy Space Center's namesake --- words that resounded throughout our na

5
00:00:31,080 --> 00:00:41,110
--- a call for exploration beyond our own planet. It was a challenge that put our nation on a path to the moon.

6
00:00:41,110 --> 00:00:47,150
Accomplishing that challenge began right here at Kennedy Space Center in 1962.

7
00:00:47,150 --> 00:00:55,700
And during the next five decades, this center would serve as the departure gate for every U.S. human spacefli

8
00:00:55,700 --> 00:01:02,040
Our space exploration journey began a few years earlier on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station where launch pa

9
00:01:02,040 --> 00:01:09,770
were already beginning to line Florida's sunny central east coast during the late 1950's.

10
00:01:09,770 --> 00:01:16,260
Here, a group of seven daring space pioneers were already preparing for missions to explore the heavens

11
00:01:16,260 --> 00:01:20,490
and learn to live and work in space.

12
00:01:20,490 --> 00:01:28,880
From 1961 to 1963 many successful manned Mercury missions were processed and launched from the Cape.

13
00:01:28,880 --> 00:01:35,830

The first up - astronaut Alan Shepard rode an Redstone rocket and Mercury capsule on the first U.S. suborbita

14
00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:44,640
mission, May 5, 1961, just 20 days before President Kennedy's bold speech to Congress.

15
00:01:44,640 --> 00:01:52,970
Not long after ? February 20, 1962 - John Glenn lifted off in the Mercury Friendship 7 capsule from Launch

16
00:01:52,970 --> 00:01:58,420
Complex 14 and became the first American to orbit Earth.

17
00:01:58,420 --> 00:02:04,360
After Mercury came Project Gemini, and Kennedy workers helped prepare the ten manned missions

18
00:02:04,360 --> 00:02:11,770
that were flown on Titan II rockets during 1965 and 1966, and which helped develop skills in rendezvous,

19
00:02:11,770 --> 00:02:20,370
docking and working outside the spacecraft -- skills that would be critical in flying to the Moon during

20
00:02:20,370 --> 00:02:23,850
Project Apollo.

21
00:02:23,850 --> 00:02:29,690
Before the Gemini missions came to an end though, a moon launch facility was starting to take shape at

22
00:02:29,690 --> 00:02:37,400
Kennedy Space Center. A spaceport was unfolding?ready to meet the goal of launching rockets to the moon a

23
00:02:37,400 --> 00:02:44,040
probes to investigate the far reaches of our solar system. An energized workforce stood ready to tackle any

24
00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:48,700
challenge on the horizon.

25
00:02:48,700 --> 00:02:54,450
We built the Launch Complex 39 launch pads and the giant Vehicle Assembly Building designed for the Apollo

26
00:02:54,450 --> 00:03:04,900
missions. The 525-foot-tall VAB was the largest building by volume in the world. With four massive high bays,

27
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:12,260
work platforms and large cranes, it was a structure fit for processing the mighty Saturn V rocket that would

28
00:03:12,260 --> 00:03:20,960
soon take the dreams of a nation to the moon.

29
00:03:20,960 --> 00:03:29,710
Several Apollo missions launched from Kennedy setting the stage for the main event.

30
00:03:29,710 --> 00:03:35,000
It was Kennedy Space Center's managers, technicians and engineers who helped prepare the Saturn V rocket

31
00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:51,730
and Apollo 11 capsule for the launch to the moon on July 16, 1969. Thousands flocked to witness

32
00:03:51,730 --> 00:04:05,820
history. An estimated 530 million people watched on black and white televisions as the Eagle landed.

33
00:04:05,820 --> 00:04:31,000
They heard Neil Armstrong's words as he became the first human to set foot on the lunar surface, July 20, 196

34
00:04:33,400 --> 00:04:38,820
During the 70s, Kennedy's workforce prepared some of the most sophisticated machines of the day ?

35
00:04:38,820 --> 00:04:48,430
robotic probes with computer brains, cameras and instruments that would return information about distant worl

36
00:04:48,430 --> 00:04:53,160
These included the Pioneer and Voyager spacecraft that launched aboard powerful rockets from the coast of

37
00:04:53,160 --> 00:05:02,030
Florida and traveled to distant planets and are on their way beyond our solar system.

38
00:05:02,030 --> 00:05:11,380

Following Apollo's final lunar landing in 1972, launch of America's first space station called Skylab in 1974,

39
00:05:11,380 --> 00:05:19,210
and the first international handshake in space during the Apollo Soyuz Test Project in 1975, we focused on the

40
00:05:19,210 --> 00:05:32,400
future at Kennedy. A new program, with new goals for space exploration, was beginning to ramp up ? the Spac

41
00:05:32,400 --> 00:05:39,530
Shuttle Program ? featuring a vehicle that launched like a rocket, and landed like a glider.

42
00:05:39,530 --> 00:05:45,740
And with it, Kennedy Space Center emerged as a place of adaptation and innovation,

43
00:05:45,740 --> 00:05:51,220
leaders in rocket ingenuity once again.

44
00:05:51,220 --> 00:05:59,040
The first of NASA's fleet of space shuttles, Columbia, arrived at Kennedy in 1979.

45
00:05:59,040 --> 00:06:06,320
Inside the orbiter processing facility, a dedicated NASA and contractor workforce spent two years and

46
00:06:06,320 --> 00:06:14,530
thousands of hours preparing Columbia for her maiden flight. On April 12, 1981, Kennedy and the country

47
00:06:14,530 --> 00:06:29,200
launched a new era of spaceflight.

48
00:06:29,200 --> 00:06:36,510
Each liftoff of space shuttle Columbia, and then Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour etched an

49
00:06:36,510 --> 00:06:45,220
indelible mark on scientific discovery and research -- pushing boundaries and accomplishing more than before

50
00:06:45,220 --> 00:06:51,500
For 30 years, the space shuttles carried hundreds of astronauts who lived and worked in space. Shuttles

51
00:06:51,500 --> 00:06:58,890
placed innovative Earth-observing and interplanetary explorers into orbit, like Magellan, the first planetary

52
00:06:58,890 --> 00:07:06,580
spacecraft launched by a shuttle. Galileo-deployed by Atlantis on a six-year journey to Jupiter.

53
00:07:06,580 --> 00:07:16,200
And the Hubble Space Telescope, which revealed a colorful and active universe never seen before.

54
00:07:16,200 --> 00:07:21,980
But with great triumph in our fifty years of space accomplishments, came great tragedy.

55
00:07:21,980 --> 00:07:36,150
An accident on pad 34 took the lives of the Apollo 1 crew on January 27, 1967, and later two shuttle crews.

56
00:07:36,150 --> 00:07:49,140
The world was saddened when we lost the crews of Challenger in 1986, and Columbia in 2003. Left behind wa

57
00:07:49,140 --> 00:07:58,950
Kennedy workforce of thousands, committed to safety, who returned the shuttle fleet to service, to one day

58
00:07:58,950 --> 00:08:32,900
complete the International Space Station. Our legacy of being the world's premier launch facility continued.

59
00:08:32,900 --> 00:08:39,530
For more than a decade, Kennedy Space Center's Space Station Processing Facility workers prepared many c

60
00:08:39,530 --> 00:08:47,340
parts for the orbiting outpost, including all of the solar arrays, the Destiny Lab, four multi-purpose

61
00:08:47,340 --> 00:08:53,240
logistics modules, the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, connecting nodes, and the cupola?the station's

62
00:08:53,240 --> 00:08:56,340
window to the world.

63
00:08:56,340 --> 00:09:03,200

Our country and the world are reaping the benefits of this orbiting laboratory as it reaches its full potential

64
00:09:03,200 --> 00:09:12,550
in research and technology. It will be the centerpiece of human spaceflight activities for many years to come.

65
00:09:12,550 --> 00:09:18,810
And while the space station came together, Kennedy Space Center's Launch Services Program continued NAS

66
00:09:18,810 --> 00:09:25,040
tradition of innovation and discovery with successful rocket launches that increased our understanding of

67
00:09:25,040 --> 00:09:32,480
Earth, other planets in our solar system and the deep space beyond.

68
00:09:32,480 --> 00:09:37,840
This skilled NASA and contractor team has supported the launch of an impressive collection of

69
00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:39,780
rockets and spacecraft.

70
00:09:39,780 --> 00:09:44,630
Including the Mars rovers, searching for clues about life on the red planet,

71
00:09:44,630 --> 00:09:51,600
Kepler, which is investigating planets like our own, and the triumphant touchdown of Curiosity -

72
00:09:51,600 --> 00:09:55,960
ready to explore the habitat on Mars.

73
00:09:55,960 --> 00:10:02,390
LSP is earth's bridge to space, continuing to launch spacecraft and satellites aboard powerful

74
00:10:02,390 --> 00:10:09,580
and sophisticated rockets from the east and west coasts

75
00:10:09,580 --> 00:10:14,190
In 2011, the last three space shuttle missions were successfully launched and landed ?

76
00:10:14,190 --> 00:10:31,020
completing 30 years of remarkable service.

77
00:10:31,020 --> 00:10:38,760
Now, as we successfully did after Apollo, the center is transforming itself once again, by updating and

78
00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:47,300
preparing the facilities to support a new generation of space launch vehicles. The massive Vehicle Assembly

79
00:10:47,300 --> 00:10:51,810
Building is undergoing a renovation to accommodate several different launch vehicles at once,

80
00:10:51,810 --> 00:10:59,530
including NASA's Space Launch System. Launch Pad 39B is now a clean pad that can support many different

81
00:10:59,530 --> 00:11:06,570
of launch vehicles. And the shuttle landing facility is being readied to serve as a launching and

82
00:11:06,570 --> 00:11:08,130
landing point for a new breed of space exploration vehicles.

83
00:11:08,130 --> 00:11:10,900
The Operations and Checkout Building high bay has been totally renovated for processing of the

84
00:11:10,900 --> 00:11:14,280
Orion spacecraft that will carry humans into space and beyond low Earth orbit.

85
00:11:14,280 --> 00:11:20,060
During the past fifty years, Kennedy Space Center and the people who prepared NASA's missions,

86
00:11:20,060 --> 00:11:28,870
readied its vehicles, shared in the excitement of each launch. They built a legacy of ingenuity, innovation,

87
00:11:28,870 --> 00:11:37,880
safety and success. They are ? WE are - the world's leaders in launch engineering.

88
00:11:37,880 --> 00:11:43,430

Building on the past, yet standing ready for the future.