



#AskNASA AT Home

WHAT'S

ON THE

APOLLO 13

AUDIO

TAPES?

1  
00:00:01,909 --> 00:00:04,800  
Ignitions sequence have started

2  
00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:17,130  
Hi my name is Ben  
Feist. I want you to experience the

3  
00:00:17,130 --> 00:00:20,380  
Apollo missions exactly as they occurred  
fifty years ago

4  
00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:34,560  
Ok Houston we have a problem here.

5  
00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:41,280  
The original audio for the mission is one of the most  
interesting components.

6  
00:00:41,280 --> 00:00:50,399  
The audio itself has been in the National Archives on 30  
track tapes for the last 50 years and

7  
00:00:50,399 --> 00:00:54,480  
there is only one machine that can play  
these tapes back uses in a very special

8  
00:00:54,480 --> 00:00:58,200  
format and we had to refurbish that  
machine and get it working again and

9  
00:00:58,200 --> 00:01:01,079  
have the tapes shipped back in the  
National Archives to Johnson Space

10  
00:01:01,079 --> 00:01:05,400  
Center and we carefully digitized them  
so that we could hear them for the first

11  
00:01:05,400 --> 00:01:10,860

time the amount of material on the website in total is 7400 hours of audio

12

00:01:10,860 --> 00:01:15,330

but what that means is you can sit in any position in Mission Control for the

13

00:01:15,330 --> 00:01:18,420

whole mission and just be that play controller

14

00:01:25,330 --> 00:01:30,600

So these tapes were put away with the investigative material archives and we're not stored with the rest

15

00:01:30,600 --> 00:01:34,340

so they haven't been hurt since 1970

16

00:01:38,840 --> 00:01:44,160

There's one particular phone call will be found where Marilyn Lovell, Jim Lovell's wife

17

00:01:44,160 --> 00:01:50,130

phones Mission Control and wants to talk to somebody about what is going

18

00:01:50,130 --> 00:01:52,600

on this is the morning after the explosion happens

19

00:01:53,800 --> 00:01:56,000

Hello? Hello, Marilyn. This is Ken.

20

00:01:56,500 --> 00:01:59,000

Hi. Listen I'm naturally concerned.

21

00:01:59,500 --> 00:02:02,000

And I thought you were the best person to talk to.

22

00:02:02,500 --> 00:02:04,400

How are things looking this morning?

23

00:02:05,400 --> 00:02:09,320

My kids aren't up yet. They don't even know what's going on.

24

00:02:09,320 --> 00:02:11,000

Cause they went to sleep before all this came up last night.

25

00:02:11,500 --> 00:02:13,000

I was wondering what I can tell them.

26

00:02:13,500 --> 00:02:18,390

Here you can actually hear the reality of what this was who were these people and how worried were they or you

27

00:02:18,390 --> 00:02:23,610

know were they strong in the situation where they afraid in the situation all

28

00:02:23,610 --> 00:02:28,000

those kinds of things are actual real questions that can now be answered through this material

29

00:02:29,800 --> 00:02:32,640

Listening to the people in Mission Control doing their work is an

30

00:02:32,640 --> 00:02:37,890

astounding thing to witness we've heard for years historians tell the story

31

00:02:37,890 --> 00:02:42,239

about heroic their efforts were in Mission Control but before you hear it

32

00:02:42,239 --> 00:02:46,350

firsthand and you can hear the emotions and people's voices in them and the

33

00:02:46,350 --> 00:02:50,790

speed at which they had to make choices  
you can't really appreciate it they

34

00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:54,239

didn't hesitate they did what they  
needed to do now through all this

35

00:02:54,239 --> 00:02:54,739

material you can get to know the  
dry sense of humor

36

00:02:54,739 --> 00:03:01,890

get to know the way that they would banter back  
and forth trying to keep things like

37

00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:07,350

they were under great pressure and you  
come back come away from it feeling a

38

00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:10,900

lot more enriched by the historical  
material

39

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:14,160

I would love to do it for all

40

00:03:14,160 --> 00:03:18,750

the Apollo missions it's a huge amount  
of work and of course takes a lot of

41

00:03:18,750 --> 00:03:25,090

time currently you can go look at Apollo  
11 in real time and can also look at Apollo 17

42

00:03:25,090 --> 00:03:27,640

Really getting this material into a

43

00:03:27,640 --> 00:03:31,989

situation where people can listen to it  
and have access to it is the there's

44

00:03:31,989 --> 00:03:36,790

been look important part of this project  
I'm sure in another 50 years there might

45

00:03:36,790 --> 00:03:41,290

be another effort to translate them into  
some other format that will be however

46

00:03:41,290 --> 00:03:44,222

we consume our media then which I can't  
anticipate

47

00:03:44,222 --> 00:03:48,540

but for now this is the best way to do it

48

00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:50,079

and I'm happy we're  
able to bring this material into your

49

00:03:50,079 --> 00:03:50,879

living room

50

00:03:52,200 --> 00:03:54,700

This is pretty. Look ah there

51

00:03:55,700 --> 00:03:59,409

Do you have a question for NASA  
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