



### **Eugene A. Cernan, Captain, USN (Ret.)**

Date of Designation: 22 November 1957

Dates of Active Duty: June 1956 - July 1976

Total Flight Hours: 9,633

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 206

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 8,000 Prop: 2,000 Helo: 500 VF/VA: 8,000  
Other: 566 hours and 15 minutes in space, of which more than 73 hours spent on surface of the moon.

Aviation Commands:

Apollo XVII, Commander  
Apollo XIV, Backup Commander

### **Professional Background**

1956-1976	Captain and NASA Astronaut
1976-1981	Executive Vice President, International and Director of Coral Petroleum, Inc.
1986-1992	Executive Consultant Aerospace and Government, Digital Equipment Corporation.
1981-Present	President and Chief Executive Officer, The Cernan Corporation and The Cernan Group.
1994-Present	Chairman of the Board, Johnson Engineering Corporation.

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

Eugene A. Cernan was born in Chicago, Illinois, on March 14, 1934. He graduated from Proviso Township High School in Maywood, Illinois, and received a bachelor of science degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1956. He received his commission through the Navy ROTC Program at Purdue.

He entered flight training and upon graduation was assigned to Attack Squadrons 26 and 112 at NAS Miramar,

CA. He subsequently attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA., where he received a master of science degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1963.

Captain Cernan has logged more than 5,000 hours flying time with more than 4,800 hours in jet aircraft and over 200 jet aircraft carrier landings.

Captain Cernan was one of fourteen astronauts selected by NASA in October 1963. He occupied the pilot seat alongside of command pilot Tom Stafford on the Gemini IX mission. During this 3-day flight which began on June 3, 1966, the spacecraft achieved a circular orbit of 161 statute miles; the crew used three different techniques to effect rendezvous with the previously launched Augmented Target Docking Adapter; and Cernan, the second American to walk in space, logged two hours and ten minutes outside the spacecraft in extravehicular activities. The flight ended after 72 hours and 20 minutes with a perfect re-entry and recovery as Gemini IX landed within 1 and 1/2 miles of the prime recovery ship USS *Wasp* and 3/8 of a mile from the predetermined target.

Cernan subsequently served as backup pilot for Gemini 12 and as backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 7.

On his second space flight, he was lunar module pilot of Apollo 10, May 18-26, 1969, the first comprehensive lunar-orbital qualification and verification flight test of an Apollo lunar module. He was accompanied on the 248,000 nautical sojourn to the moon by Thomas P. Stafford (spacecraft commander) and John W. Young (commander module pilot). In accomplishing all of the assigned objectives of this mission, Apollo 10 confirmed the operations performance, stability, and reliability of the command/service module and lunar module configuration during trans-lunar coast, lunar orbit insertion, and lunar module separation and descent to within 8 nautical miles of the lunar surface. The latter maneuver involved employing all but the final minutes of the technique prescribed for use in an actual lunar landing, and allowed critical evaluation of the lunar module

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

propulsions systems and rendezvous of the landing radar devices in subsequent rendezvous and re-docking maneuvers. In addition to demonstrating that man could navigate safely and accurately in the moon's gravitational fields, Apollo 10 photographed and mapped tentative landing sites for future lunar missions.

Cernan's next assignment was backup spacecraft commander for Apollo 14.

He made his third space flight as spacecraft commander of Apollo 17--the last scheduled manned mission to the moon for the United States--which commenced at 11:33 P.M. (CST), December 6, 1972, with the first manned nighttime launch, and concluded on December 19, 1972. With him on the voyage of the command module "America" and the lunar module "Challenger" were Ronald Evans (command module pilot) and Harrison H. (Jack) Schmitt (lunar module pilot). In maneuvering "Challenger" to a landing at Taurus-Littrow, located on the southeast edge of Mare Serenitatis, Cernan and Schmitt activated a base of operation from which they completed three highly successful excursions to the nearby craters and the Taurus mountains, making the Moon their home for over three days. This last mission to the moon established several new records for manned space flight that include: longest manned lunar landing flight (301 hours 51 minutes); longest lunar surface extravehicular activities (22 hours 6 minutes); largest lunar sample return (an estimated 115 kg (249 lbs.)); and longest time in lunar orbit (147 hours 48 minutes). Apollo 17 ended with a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean approximately 0.4 miles from the target point and 4.3 miles from the prime recovery ship USS *Ticonderoga*.

In September, 1973, Cernan assumed additional duties as Special Assistant to the Program Manager of the Apollo spacecraft Program at the Johnson Space Center. In this capacity, he assisted in the planning, development, and evaluation of the joint United States/Soviet Union Apollo-Soyuz mission, and he acted for the program manager as the senior U. S. negotiator in direct discussions with the USSR on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

On July 1, 1976, Captain Cernan retired after over 20 years with the U. S. Navy. He concurrently terminated his formal association with NASA. Cernan joined Coral Petroleum, Inc., of Houston, Texas, as Executive Vice President-International. His responsibilities were to enhance Coral's energy related programs on a worldwide basis.

In September 1981, Captain Cernan started his own company, The Cernan Corporation, to pursue management and consultant interests in the energy, aerospace, and other related industries. Additionally he has been actively involved as a co-anchorman on ABC-TV's presentation of the flight of the shuttle.

In 1994, Captain Cernan became Chairman of the Board of Johnson Engineering Corporation. Johnson Engineering

currently provides the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with Flight Crew Systems Development with personnel located both on and off site at Johnson Space center. Over the last seventeen years, Johnson Engineering has supported NASA in the design of crew stations for Space Shuttle, Spacelab, Space Station, Lunar Base and Mars Outpost. The company is directly involved with the operation of the 1-G trainers in Building 9A and B, as well as the Weightless Environment Training Facility in Building 29.

Captain Cernan was the second American to have walked in space, having spanned the circumference of the world twice in a little more than 2 1/2 hours. He served as commander of the last mission to the moon, Apollo 17, and had the privilege and distinction of being the last man to have left his footprints on the surface of the moon.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Captain Gene Cernan was the pilot on the Gemini IX mission and the second American to walk in space.
- (2) He was lunar module pilot of Apollo X, and Spacecraft Commander of Apollo XVII, which resulted in the distinction of being the last man to have left his footprints on the surface of the moon.
- (3) Logged 566 hours and 15 minutes in space-of which more than 73 hours were spent on the surface of the moon. Was one of the two men to have flown to the moon on two occasions.
- (4) Honorary Doctorates of Engineering from Purdue, Drexel and Gonzaga Universities, and an Honorary Doctorate degree from Western State College of Law and Comenius University of the Slovak Republic.

### **Family**

Married to Jan Nanna Cernan. Have three daughters: Teresa Cernan Woolie, Kelly Nanna Taff and Danielle Nanna Ellis.

### **Special Honors**

4 Distinguished Service Medals (2 Navy and 2 NASA).  
NASA Exceptional Service Medal.  
JSC Superior Achievement Award.  
Distinguished Flying Cross (Navy).  
National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Special Trustees Award (1969).  
Federation Aeronautique Internationale Gold Space Medal (1972).  
VFW National Space Medal (1973)  
Inducted into the U. S. Space Hall of Fame.  
Olympic Torch Bearer (May 1996)