

Brian Duffy
2016 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Inductee

Brian Duffy (Colonel, USAF, Ret.) was selected as a NASA astronaut in June 1985. A veteran of four Space Shuttle flights, Duffy has logged more than 975 hours in space.

Duffy first flew in space on March 24, 1992, as pilot of STS-45 Atlantis. The ATLAS-1 mission carried the first Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science (ATLAS-1) on Spacelab pallets mounted in the orbiter's cargo bay. The non-deployable payload, equipped with 12 instruments from 7 different countries including the U.S., Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and Switzerland were utilized to conduct studies addressing the atmosphere and its interaction with the sun.

As pilot of Endeavour, Duffy returned to space on STS-57, which launched from Kennedy Space Center on June 21, 1993. STS- 57 was the first flight of the commercial SPACEHAB, a pressurized laboratory augmentation module designed to more than double the pressurized workspace for the crew to operate on experiments. Other mission highlights include retrieval of the European Retrievable Carrier with Endeavour's robotic arm, a spacewalk by two crew members and all six crew members chatting with President Clinton from space.

Duffy's first mission as commander was STS-72. The first flight of 1996, Endeavour launched on Jan. 11, 1996. During the 9-day flight the crew retrieved the Space Flyer Unit (launched from Japan 10 months earlier), deployed and retrieved the OAST-Flyer, and conducted two spacewalks to demonstrate and evaluate techniques to be used in the assembly of the International Space Station.

Duffy next commanded STS-92 Discovery, launched on Oct. 11, 2000. During the 13-day International Space Station (ISS) assembly flight, the seven member crew attached the Z1 Truss and Pressurized Mating Adapter 3 to the ISS using Discovery's robotic arm and performed four space walks to configure these elements. This expansion of the ISS opened the door for future assembly missions and prepared the station for its first resident crew.

During his time with NASA, Duffy served as spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) in Mission Control for numerous space shuttle missions. He also served as Assistant Director (Technical) and Deputy Director (Acting) of the Johnson Space Center (JSC). Duffy retired from the Air Force and NASA in 2001. He has served as Vice President and Associate Program Manager for the Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Currently Vice President and JSC Program Manager for Exploration Systems at Orbital ATK, Duffy is interested in making more flights into space.