

U.S. Spacesuit Legacy: Maintaining it for the Future

Cinda Chullen¹

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, 77058

Joe McMann²

Olde Irish Consulting, Temple, TX, 76502

Ken Thomas³

RD3 Enterprises, Manchester, CT, 06042

Joe Kosmo⁴

Devilsfork, LLC Consulting, Seabrook, TX, 77586

Dr. Cathleen Lewis⁵

National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC, 20560

Rebecca Wright⁶

DB Consulting Group, Houston, TX, 77058

and

Rose Bitterly⁷ and Vladenka Oliva⁸

Engineering and Science Contract Group, Jacobs Technology, Houston, TX, 77058

The history of US Spacesuit development and use is rich with information on lessons learned, and constitutes a valuable legacy to those designing spacesuits for the future, as well as educators, students and the general public. The genesis of lessons learned is best understood by studying the evolution of past spacesuit programs – how the challenges and pressures of the times influenced the direction of the various spacesuit programs. This paper will show how the legacy of various programs evolved in response to these forces. Important aspects of how this rich U.S. spacesuit legacy is being preserved today will be described, including the archiving of spacesuit hardware, important documents, videos, oral history, and the rapidly expanding US Spacesuit Knowledge Capture program.

¹ Project Engineer, Space Suit and Crew Survival Systems Branch, Crew and Thermal Systems Division, 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058/EC5, Senior Member.

² Sole Proprietor, Olde Irish Consulting, 4858 Lakeaire Circle, Temple, TX, 76502.

³ Sole Proprietor RD3 Enterprises, 23 Jensen St., Manchester, CT, 06042.

⁴ Sole Proprietor, Devilsfork LLC Consulting, 1110 Cragmore Drive, Seabrook, TX 77586.

⁵ Museum Curator, Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, Space History Division, MRC 311, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012.

⁶ JSC History Coordinator, DB Consulting Group, 2200 Space Park Dr., Suite 200, Houston, TX, 77058.

⁷ Administrative Specialist, Hardware Systems Project Engineering, 2224 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058/JE2-B1N.

⁸ Technical Editor, Hardware Systems Project Engineering, 2224 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058/JE2-B1N.