

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Richard Chappell
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Dr. "Rick" Chappell is the associate director for Science at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. In that capacity he serves as the chief scientist for the center advising the Center director on all science and university programs while maintaining interaction with leading scientists throughout the world. He has directed research in solar terrestrial physics and has been a principal investigator on several satellite missions. In May 1994, Chappell became special assistant for Environmental programs to the NASA administrator. He was assigned to the White House to implement an environmental science/education program for Vice President Al Gore.

Prior to joining NASA in 1974, Chappell was a research and staff scientist with the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company where he conducted investigations of the Earth's space plasma environment.

From 1976 to 1985, Chappell was the mission scientist for Spacelab 1, a joint European/American shuttle mission that conducted investigations in material sciences, life sciences, space physics, earth observations, and astronomy. He was responsible for the science management of this international payload and from his position in the Payload Operations Control Center in Houston, coordinated the more than 70 scientific investigations. In December 1985 he was selected to train as an Alternate Payload Specialist for a flight aboard the Space Shuttle. The STS-45 mission took place in March 1992 and studied the sun, as well as Earth's atmosphere and magnetosphere.

Chappell is a magna cum laude graduate in physics from Vanderbilt University with a Ph.D. in space science from Rice University. He is the author of more than 100 published scientific articles and has served on numerous advisory committees for NASA and the National Academy of Science. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the recipient of a Sloan scholarship and has twice received the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement. Chappell has represented NASA in an extensive variety of public appearances including color commentary on the Cable

News Network and interviews on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Nightline, and the BBC.

The Marshall Space Flight Center has a leading role in the nation's space program. During the sixties and early seventies, the Center was best known for developing the Saturn rockets and lunar roving vehicles for the Apollo program, and for Skylab, America's first space station. Marshall-developed satellites such as the Hubble Space Telescope have returned a wealth of information in astronomy, astrophysics, and other scientific disciplines.

Currently, the Marshall Center is responsible for a wide variety of NASA projects, ranging from production of propulsion elements for the Space Shuttle to management of Spacelab science research missions and other Space Shuttle payloads. Marshall is NASA's Center of Excellence for Propulsion, and it provides NASA with a wealth of technical expertise in the design of space hardware. The Center's research laboratories and test facilities are among the finest in the world.

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