

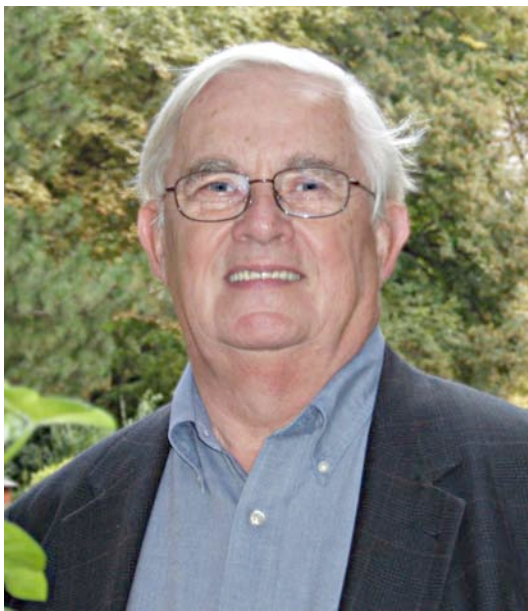
Fifty Years In Space – A Report Card



John M. Logsdon

The George Washington University, Washington, DC

For forty-five of the fifty years that the United States has been active in space, I have been an active and involved observer, and I have taken a careful look at the first five of those years. From my 1970 book *The Decision to Go to the Moon* to the last twenty years as Director of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute, I have been writing, speaking, and teaching about the U.S. space program. In this talk I will provide my assessment of what has been positive, and what has not (unfortunately, more in this category) in the U.S. approach to space. Now President George W. Bush has committed the United States to a "sustained and affordable human and robotic program to explore the solar system and beyond." Is this an appropriate direction for the United States in space? Can it be sustained as a new president enters the White House in January 2009? Does the record of the last fifty years inspire confidence in a productive future?



John M. Logsdon is Director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where he is also Research Professor and Professor Emeritus of Political Science and of International Affairs. From 1983-2001, he was also Director of the School's Center for International Science and Technology Policy. He has been a faculty member at GW since 1970; from 1966-1970 he taught at the Catholic University of America. He holds a B.S. in Physics from Xavier University (1960) and a Ph.D. in Political Science from New York University (1970). Dr. Logsdon's research interests focus on the policy and historical aspects of U.S. and international space activities.

Dr. Logsdon is the author of *The Decision to Go to the Moon: Project Apollo and the National Interest* and is general editor of the eight-volume series *Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program*. He has written numerous articles and reports on space policy and history, and authored the basic article on "space exploration" for the most recent edition of Encyclopedia Britannica. Dr. Logsdon has lectured and spoken to a wide variety of audiences at professional meetings, colleges and universities, international conferences, and other settings, and has testified before Congress on several occasions.

Dr. Logsdon is a member of the NASA Advisory Council and of the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee of the Department of Transportation. In 2003 he served as a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Public Service and Public Service Medals from NASA, the 2005 John F. Kennedy Astronautics Award from the American Astronautical Society, and the 2006 Barry Goldwater Space Educator Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and former Chair of its Commission on Space Policy, Law, and Economics.