

## Biographical Timeline:

# Richard Covey



Picture Credit: Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (1)

## EARLY LIFE

Mr. Richard Covey was born August 1, 1946 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Later, in 1964, he graduated from Choctawhatchee High School in Shalimar, Florida ("Biographical Data," 2007, paras. 1-2).

## COLLEGE

Mr. Covey attended the US Air Force Academy from 1964-1968 and graduated with a major in Astronautical Engineering. After that, he completed a non-thesis master's in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University in 1969 (Ross-Nazzal, 2006, paras. 8-13).

## MILITARY

After graduating college, Mr. Covey was a fighter pilot in Southeast Asia until 1974, flying the F-100, T-37, and A-7D. Through 1977, Mr. Covey was a Test Pilot: he tested weapons systems and ran flight tests ("Biographical Data," 2007, para. 5).

## ASTRONAUT

From 1979 to 1994, Mr. Covey flew on four space flights: STS 51-I, STS-26, STS-38, and STS-61. On the first two flights, Mr. Covey served as the pilot. Then, he served as commander on his final two flights ("Biographical Data," 2007, paras. 11-14).

## NASA CAREER

During this same time, Mr. Covey had other roles at NASA. He provided astronaut support, which entailed representing the astronauts while they were busy training. He was also a T-38 chase pilot and support crewman for shuttle flights. Additionally, he served as CAPCOM ("Biographical Data," 2007, para. 7).

## BOEING

From 1996-2006, Mr. Covey worked for Boeing under different roles. He started as division director for McDonnell Douglas. He then served as Vice President of Boeing Houston Operations. Finally, he was President of Boeing Service Company ("Richard Covey Named," 2006, paras. 3-4).

## STAFFORD-COVEY COMMISSION

After the Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster, Mr. Covey along with Lieutenant General Thomas Patten Stafford, founded this commission in 2003 to help bring the Space Shuttle fleet back to space. They helped provide safety checks for future trips to space ("Biographical Data," 2007, para. 10).

## UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE

Mr. Covey was involved in USA from 2006-2010. Through 2007, Mr. Covey was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He was eventually promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer in September 2007 ("Biographical Data," 2007, para 9).



Picture Credit: NASA (2)

# References

Biographical Data. (2007, October). Retrieved from [https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/covey\\_richard.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/covey_richard.pdf)

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Richard Covey Named Chief Operating Officer of United Space Alliance. (2006, January 16). Retrieved March 10, 2021, from <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=18775>

Ross-Nazzal, J. (2006, November 1). Richard O. Covey NASA Johnson Space Center Oral History Project. Retrieved from [https://historycollection.jsc.nasa.gov/JSCHistoryPortal/history/oral\\_histories/CoveyRO/CoveyRO\\_11-1-06.htm](https://historycollection.jsc.nasa.gov/JSCHistoryPortal/history/oral_histories/CoveyRO/CoveyRO_11-1-06.htm)

# Footnotes

1: <https://www.astronautscholarship.org/autograph-store/autographed-prints/dick-covey-autographed-print/>

2: [https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/covey\\_richard.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/covey_richard.pdf)